

ACKLAND

Ackland Art Museum | The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

For immediate release
7/20/09

PETER NISBET APPOINTED CHIEF CURATOR



CHAPEL HILL, NC – Peter Nisbet, formerly the Daimler-Benz Curator of the Busch-Reisinger Museum at the Harvard Art Museum, has been appointed Chief Curator of the Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, effective October 1, 2009.

Nisbet holds a BA and MA from Cambridge University and a PhD in the History of Art from Yale University. Before joining the Harvard Art Museum in 1983, Nisbet held assistantships at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and at Yale University Art Gallery. At the Busch-Reisinger Museum he was responsible for a collection of 39,000 works of art ranging from the Middle Ages to the present and played a leading role in the reconceptualization and revitalization of the museum, leading to its relocation in 1991.

As Chief Curator at the Ackland, Nisbet will hold primary responsibility for the leadership of the curatorial department, including exhibitions planning, donor and collector cultivation, and collaborative projects. He will also oversee the development of one of the largest and most significant art collections in the region.

“Peter has all of the qualifications we have been seeking for this new position,” said Ackland Director Emily Kass. “He has a breadth of knowledge of art history; extensive experience, nationally and internationally, in collection development and exhibitions; a commitment to education and the mission of a university museum; and leadership and experience working with a range of constituencies. We are thrilled to have him join the Ackland.”

“I am very excited to have the opportunity to come to North Carolina and join this distinguished and increasingly ambitious museum,” said Nisbet. “I look forward tremendously to helping to realize the Ackland’s full potential as an engine of research, as a catalyst for significant experiences, and as a dynamic partner in the University’s mission. The Ackland’s impressive and growing collection spans many cultures and traditions, offering a great platform for making connections and starting conversations.”

A leading expert in Russian and German art of the twentieth century, Nisbet has organized several major international traveling exhibitions on European art between the wars and has published catalogues and essays on Russian and Soviet Modernism, El Lissitzky, German Modernism, contemporary art, and on issues of museum history, theory, and practice.

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The Ackland Art Museum

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the historic campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an academic unit of the University, the Ackland serves broad local, state, and national constituencies. The Ackland Collection consists of more than 15,500 works of art, featuring significant collections of European masterworks, twentieth-century and contemporary art, North Carolina's premier collections of Asian art and works of art on paper (drawings, prints, and photographs), as well as African art and North Carolina pottery and folk art.

Location and Hours

The Ackland Art Museum is located at 101 South Columbia Street, near the intersection with East Franklin Street in downtown Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Admission is always free. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10AM – 5PM, Sunday 1PM – 5PM, and until 9PM on the second Friday of every month. More information available at 919.966.5736 or www.ackland.org.

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For more information, please contact:

Nic Brown
Director of Communications
nic_brown@unc.edu / www.ackland.org
PH 919.843.3675 / FAX 919.966.1400