

4th ANNUAL THE CROW SHOW JUROR ROXANA VELÁSQUEZ

Maruja Baldwin Executive Director
SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART



Roxana Velásquez is the Maruja Baldwin Executive Director at The San Diego Museum of Art. As a passionate advocate for the arts, Ms. Velásquez has focused on fostering cross-cultural dialogues within the San Diego community as well as nationally and internationally. Throughout her professional career, she has organized many high-profile exhibitions in her capacity as the Executive Director of the Museo Nacional de San Carlos, Museo Nacional de Arte (MUNAL), the Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, and currently with The San Diego Museum of Art.

In all held leadership positions, Ms. Velásquez elevated each respective institution to international recognition. As the Executive Director of The San Diego Museum of Art, she has increased the institution's holdings with the donation of works of art by world-renowned artists including Francisco de Zurbarán's *Saint Francis in Prayer in a Grotto*, 1655, Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida's *On the Seashore*, Valencia, 1908, and, most recently Jusepe de Ribera's *Saint James the Lesser*, ca. 1632. During Ms. Velásquez's tenure, the Museum has acquired 920 works of art through donations and gifts. High-level exhibitions and loans from the Museum's collection travel

continuously around the world, reinforcing cultural exchange while at the same time raising the global recognition of the institution. These include *United States Art* from The San Diego Museum of Art at the Suzhou Museum in China (2010), *Visions of India* at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid (2012), *Mexico's National Museum of Anthropology* (2013), and the National Museum of Fine Arts in Quebec (2014), and the loan of René Magritte's *The Shadows*, 1966, to the National Art Center Tokyo (2015) and the Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art (2015). Most recently, Giorgione's *Portrait of a Man* (1506) was on loan to the Royal Academy of Arts (2016).

Since Ms. Velásquez's arrival at the Museum, exhibitions have included *From El Greco to Dalí, Gauguin to Warhol, Sorolla and America, The Invention of Glory, The Human Beast (German Expressionism), Mexican Modern Painting* from the Andrés Blaisten Collection, and *The Art of Music*, an exhibition that included over 200 works of art with more than 50 lenders. At the conclusion of the exhibition at The San Diego Museum of Art, *The Art of Music* traveled to Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, Mexico. Under the guidance of Ms. Velásquez, the Museum has successfully collaborated with local peer institutions including the San Diego Symphony, the San Diego Youth Symphony, and the University of California, San Diego.

In addition to ongoing public and educational programs and bilingual initiatives, Ms. Velásquez has embraced innovation by bringing technology to the Museum's galleries. This includes a new mobile app and tours, audio tours, and telepresence guides (robots controlled remotely from a desktop computer) that allow people to "beam" in from around the world to explore the Museum. Ms. Velásquez further participated in new information-exchange programs, including presenting at the first TEDx event staged simultaneously in two countries with speakers presenting in San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Baja California.

It is under Ms. Velásquez's leadership that the Museum has published new catalogues and children's books in addition to receiving multiple grants for exhibitions. Grants have been received from the Getty Foundation as well as the James Irvine Foundation to fund the Museum's public art program *Open Spaces* for at-risk areas within the San Diego community.

Ms. Velásquez is a member of multiple boards, including Association of Art Museum Directors; International Council of Museums; American Alliance of Museums; Asociación Mexicana de Profesionales de Museos; San Diego Tourism Authority; Curatorial Advisory Board at University of San Diego; and a Trustee of the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership (BPCP).

Ms. Velásquez has been distinguished by the King of Spain with the Cross of Isabel la Católica for outstanding cultural projects of Spanish art organized in Mexico (2007). The Belgian government awarded her with the prestigious decoration of the Knight of the Order of the Crown for cross-cultural relations between Belgium and Mexico (2014). Ms. Velásquez recently served on the Paris Biennial Commission responsible for selecting the international galleries and antique dealers to exhibit at the 2017 Biennial.