

Joan Mitchell Foundation Adds Conservator Jim Coddington to Its Board

New York, NY—January 7, 2021—The Joan Mitchell Foundation announced today the appointment of conservator Jim Coddington to its Board of Directors for a three-year term. Coddington recently retired from the Museum of Modern Art where he was chief conservator from 1996 to 2016. Prior to his appointment to the Foundation’s Board, from 2019 to 2020, Coddington served as an advisor to the Foundation’s Legacy Committee, a group of board members who work closely with staff to support planning around the preservation, documentation, and research of the Foundation’s artwork and archival collections as well as other aspects of stewardship of artist Joan Mitchell’s legacy. The announcement follows the appointments of finance specialist Marc Chennault and artist Paul Ramírez Jonas to the Board in 2020.

“Jim brings to our Board a real grounding in the care and stewardship of collections—knowledge that is essential to the Foundation’s work in preserving and enhancing knowledge of Joan Mitchell’s art and legacy. His understanding of how organizations engage with and uphold their missions is equally valuable,” said Christa Blatchford, Executive Director of the Joan Mitchell Foundation. “I look forward to having his voice at the table as we continue to cultivate scholarship on Mitchell’s career and expand our support for artists. The Board is integral to ensuring the Foundation lives up to its vision and goals, and I want to thank all of the members, past and present, for their commitment and for sharing their expertise and time.”

Jim Coddington first joined the conservation department at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in 1987 and most recently served as the Agnes Gund Chief Conservator. He also recently served as the Judith Praska Distinguished Visiting Professor of Conservation at the Institute of Fine Arts at NYU (2019) and as a visiting conservator at the Courtauld Institute (2010). He has published widely on a spectrum of subjects, from important technical topics such as structural restoration of paintings, development of color accurate documentation of art, and multi-spectral analysis of paintings, to more broad-based texts on the theory and practice of conservation and the common methodologies of art history and conservation. He has also published studies of Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, and Joan Miro, among others. Coddington holds a degree in conservation from the University of Delaware and a bachelor’s degree from Reed College. He is a Professional Associate of the American Institute for Conservation, a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation, and an Honorary Fellow at the Institute of Fine Arts.

“I am very pleased to be joining the Joan Mitchell Foundation Board and to work with the staff and Board to further its mission. As a conservator of modern art, the Foundation’s dual purposes of preserving an artist’s legacy and furthering the work of contemporary artists have been core to my professional life as well. I look forward to bringing that experience to the Foundation and its work,” said Coddington.

JOAN MITCHELL FOUNDATION

Members of the Board of Directors of the Joan Mitchell Foundation serve three-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. Effective January 1, 2021, three long-serving members are departing the Board due to term limits: Ronald Bechet, Theodore S. Berger, and Michele Tortorelli. The current Board members and officers are: Jean Shin, President; Miranda Lash, Vice President; Linda Usdin, Dr.PH., Secretary; Sandy S. Lee, Treasurer; Marc Chennault; Jim Coddington; Kemi Ilesanmi; Paul Ramírez Jonas; and Juan Sánchez.

About the Joan Mitchell Foundation

The Joan Mitchell Foundation expands awareness of abstract artist Joan Mitchell's life and pioneering work and fulfills her wish to support and provide opportunities for visual artists. Through its work, the Foundation affirms and amplifies artists' essential contributions to society.

As the chief steward of Joan Mitchell's legacy, the Foundation manages a collection of Mitchell's artwork and archives containing her personal papers, photographs, and ephemera. The Foundation provides loans of Mitchell artworks from its collection to museums, academic institutions, and other non-profit arts spaces. Foundation staff are dedicated to assisting researchers and sharing information about the Foundation's artwork and archival collections in order to further scholarship and broad appreciation for Mitchell's life and work. The Foundation is also supporting the Joan Mitchell Catalogue Raisonné, established in 2015, which is currently researching Mitchell's paintings in order to produce a scholarly, multi-volume book documenting all of the artist's known painted work.

Fulfilling Mitchell's mandate to "aid and assist" living artists, over the past 27 years the Foundation has evolved a range of initiatives that directly support visual artists at varying stages of their careers. The Foundation's grant programs include annual unrestricted awards of \$25,000 given directly to artists. The New Orleans-based Joan Mitchell Center traditionally hosts residencies for national and local artists, as well as artist talks, open studio events, and other public programs that encourage dialogue and exchange with the local community; due to COVID-19, the program is focused on local artists for 2021. The Creating a Living Legacy (CALL) initiative provides free and essential resources to help artists of all ages organize, document, and manage their artworks and careers. Together, these programs, along with additional professional support services, actively engage with working artists as they develop and expand their practices. For more information, visit joanmitchellfoundation.org.

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