



## Curriculum Vitae Dr. Josef Helfenstein

### Education

1991 PhD, University of Bern

1982 Licence ès lettres, Université de Genève: German Language and Literature, Art History, History

1977–1982 Université de Genève, Switzerland, faculté des lettres

### Professional Activities 2004–2014

Since 2004 Director of The Menil Collection and Foundation, Houston (TX):

Managing the institution's operations and development, directing its curatorial program, and initiating and overseeing the Strategic Plan and Master Site Plan that have led to the current project to enlarge and enhance the 30-acre campus

2005/06 Initiated and conducted first Strategic Plan in the institution's history

2007/08 Preparatory work toward creating Masterplan for future expansion and improvement of Menil Campus

2009 Masterplan completed and approved by Menil Board of Trustees

2010–2012 Architect search for Menil Drawing Institute. The Menil Drawing Institute is currently planned to open to the public in 2017.

2014 Opening of "Bistro Menil", beginning of enhanced comprehensive landscaping, redesign and opening of new 'green' parking lot, bookstore and entrance to main building

Exhibitions from the Menil's permanent collection; monographic shows about Paul Klee, Robert Rauschenberg, Susan Frecon, Kurt Schwitters, Walter de Maria, Luc Tuymans, Rene Magritte; and thematic exhibitions, most recently "Experiments with Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence" (2014/15)

Ongoing research projects includes two Catalog Raisonné in progress: *Max Ernst: Oeuvre-Katalog* (edited by Werner Spies, Sigrid and Günter Metken, vol. 1 published 1975), expected to conclude in 2015 or 2016. *Catalog Raisonné of the Drawings of Jasper Johns*, expected to be published in 2017ff

### Professional Activities Before 2004

1983 –1988 Assistant Curator (1983/84) and Curator, Kunstmuseum Bern

1988–2000 Chief Curator of the Prints and Drawings Department and of the Paul Klee Foundation, Kunstmuseum Bern

1989–2005 Project Head, *Catalogue raisonné Paul Klee*, Paul Klee Foundation, Kunstmuseum Bern

1995–2000 Associate Director, Kunstmuseum Bern

1990–2000 Guest Curator in museums in the United States, the former Czechoslovakian Republic, Japan, Korea and Brazil

1990–2000 Deputy of Switzerland to the International Advisory Committee of Keepers of Graphic Art

1999–2000 Worked with the architect Renzo Piano and his team on conceptual plans for the Paul Klee Zentrum, Bern

1999 George A. Miller Visiting Scholar, School of Art and Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2000–2004 Director, Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Since 2000 Member of the Board of Directors of the Paul Klee-Stiftung der Burgergemeinde Bern

Since 2001 Member of AAMD, the Association of Art Museum Directors (USA, Canada, Mexico)

Numerous exhibitions on 19th and 20th century art, including Max Ernst, Meret Oppenheim, Paul Klee, Johannes Itten, Balthus, Feininger, Jawlensky, Kandinsky, Josef and Anni Albers, Jacques Lipchitz, Barnett Newman, Bill Traylor, Louise Bourgeois, James Turrell, Maria Lassnig, Markus Rätz, Jean-Frédéric Schnyder, Bethan Huws, and Luc Tuymans

### **Symposia and Programs**

Organized the “International Symposium on Paul Klee’s Art and Career” (Bern, Switzerland, October 1998, with Oskar Bätschmann, Art History Institute, University of Bern)

Since 2000, organized lecture series in art history, cultural history, architecture, and visual arts and music performances in conjunction with exhibitions and other projects

### **Teaching and Scholarly Collaborations**

1995/1996 Lecturer, Art History Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland

1999 Visiting professor, Art History Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2000-2004 Worked with graduate and undergraduate students, Art History Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, on a regular basis in conjunction with projects at Krannert Art Museum

2001/2002 Seminar for graduate students, Art History Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (with Jonathan Fineberg)

Since 2004 Numerous collaborative projects with faculty and students (University of Texas, Austin, Rice University, University of Houston, and Texas Southern University) including lecture series, programs, symposia, internships and fellowships, none of which existed before 2004 at the Menil Collection

### **Selected Publications (since 2004)**

#### **1. Art of the 19th and First Half of the 20th Century**

*Magritte – The Mystery of the Ordinary, 1926-1938*, The Museum of the Modern Art, 2013 (author)

*Art and Activism: Projects by John and Dominique de Menil*, The Menil Collection/Yale University Press, 2010 (co-edited with Laureen Schipsi)

*A Modern Patronage: de Menil gifts to American and European Museums*, The Menil Collection/Yale University Press, 2007 (editor and author)

*Bill Traylor, William Edmondson and the Modernist Impulse*, Krannert Art Museum/The Menil Collection, 2004 (editor and author)

#### **2. Paul Klee and His Circle**

*Klee and America*, The Menil Collection/Yale University Press, 2006 (co-edited with Elizabeth Hutton Turner, and author)

*Catalogue raisonné Paul Klee, Volumes 1-9*, The Paul Klee Foundation, Bern and London, 1998–2004 (co-edited with Christian Rümelin)

*Beschleunigung der Geschichte: Zeichnen und Linie im Spätwerk Klees*, in: Veröffentlichungen des Zentralinstituts für Kunstgeschichte, Band XVI, Munich 2004

### **3. Post-World War II and Contemporary Art**

*Walter De Maria -- Trilogies*, The Menil Collection/Yale University Press, 2011 (editor and author), "Understanding Life" (on Jean-Luc Mylayne), *Parkett* 85, 2009

*Form, Color, Illumination: Suzan Frecon Painting*, The Menil Collection/Yale University Press, 2008 (editor and author)

*Personages: Animism versus Modernist Sculpture*, in: *Louise Bourgeois*, Tate Publishing, London, 2007

*Robert Rauschenberg: Cardboards and Related Pieces*, The Menil Collection/Yale University Press, 2007 (editor)

### **Grants and Awards (since 2001)**

2010 International Association of Art Critics – American Chapter  
Best Monographic Museum Show Nationally  
"Kurt Schwitters: Color and Collage"

2007 AAM Publications Design Competition Award of Merit  
"Klee and America" exhibition catalogue

2006 American Association of International Art Critics  
Second place award for "Bill Traylor, William Edmondson, and the Modernist Impulse" as one of two Best Thematic Shows Nationally

2003 UIUC Campus Research Board Grant  
("Paul Klee and America," exhibition and publication, 2005)

2002 UIUC Campus Research Board Grant  
("Bill Traylor and William Edmondson: African-American Art and the Modernist Impulse", exhibition and publication, 2004)

2001. UIUC Campus Research Board Grant  
("Drawings of Choice from a New York Collection", exhibition and publication, 2002)

2001 UIUC, Beckman Award