

LINDA PACE FOUNDATION

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**THE LINDA PACE FOUNDATION APPOINTS
STEVEN EVANS
AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CURATOR;
FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
DIA:BEACON, NEW YORK**



San Antonio, Texas — The Board of Directors of the Linda Pace Foundation announces the appointment of Steven Evans as its Executive Director and Curator. Evans comes to the Linda Pace Foundation from Dia Art Foundation, where he has held a variety of positions since 1990, and most recently that of Managing Director, Dia:Beacon. He will assume his new post in August 2010.

“Steven stood out from a competitive field of international candidates for his proven executive skills, remarkable long-term museum experience, independent curatorial projects, and his engaging personality,” said Rick Moore, President of the Linda Pace Foundation. “We have every confidence that he will move Linda Pace’s vision forward in every aspect of our mission.”

During his twenty-year tenure, Evans worked his way up to Operations Deputy and ultimately Managing Director of Dia’s museum. Evans was an integral part of the team that successfully transformed the former Hudson Valley box factory into the 292,000 square foot facility for Dia’s collection.

As Managing Director, Evans worked both with administrative and artistic aspects of Dia:Beacon’s operations. He also managed such critical successes as the Merce Cunningham Dance Company residency at Dia:Beacon, and the site production of a complex Sol LeWitt wall drawing exhibition.

Steven Evans’ independent curatorial projects include: *Other Voices, Other Rooms* an exhibition he curated for Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs in New York City, which featured works by Max Cole, Marcia Hafif, Winston Roeth, Fred Sandback, and David Simpson, and won an award from the International Association of Art Critics; and a forthcoming retrospective on Richard Merkin for the Garrison Art Center in Garrison, New York. In 2009, he published a piece called “In Service to Artists...” in *Beyond the Turnstile: Making the Case for Museums and Sustainable Values*, Alta-Mira Press. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment of Arts, New

LINDA PACE FOUNDATION

York State Council on the Arts, and the Dutchess County Arts Council. Throughout his career, Evans has worked successfully with arts organizations, artists, and civic associations.

Dia Art Foundation Director Philippe Vergne said: “Steven will be missed by all of us at Dia. He has been the face of Dia in Beacon for 10 years and has worked alongside many artists and across many disciplines with rare passion and dedication. His knowledge of art is only matched by his desire to provide the art, the artists and the audience with an art experience of the highest standards. The Linda Pace Foundation has made an excellent choice.”

The late Linda Pace, who admired Dia’s commitment to artists, was a former trustee of the organization. When she founded Artpace, the artist residency program in her hometown of San Antonio in 1995, she emulated Dia’s unrelenting faith in artists and the importance of personal creativity. She recognized that Dia also charted its own territory in the contemporary art world. Her philanthropic vision reflected a similar belief in supporting artists whose work is timely and of the highest quality, and in finding different models to exhibit their work in an ever-changing art world.

“Many of the reasons which lead me now to the Linda Pace Foundation are the same that attracted me to Dia some twenty years ago: the opportunity to engage with the significant art and artists of our time and to be part of building something meaningful and of lasting quality,” said Evans. “It is an honor and will be exciting to build upon the work that Linda and now her Foundation have already accomplished.”

As Executive Director and Curator of the Linda Pace Foundation, Evans will curate exhibitions from the Foundation’s collection of more than 500 works of contemporary art, many of them by former Artpace artists, and develop innovative ways to present the collection both inside and outside San Antonio. Under his leadership, the Foundation will continue to support Artpace, an independent public institution that serves as a cornerstone of contemporary art in San Antonio, and internationally through its artist residences, exhibitions and education program. He will also manage CHRISpark, a one-acre art park that Pace built in memory of her son, Christopher Goldsbury.

Born in Key West, Florida, Evans graduated from the Atlanta College of Art in Atlanta, Georgia with a B.F.A. in 1987, and from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design with an M.F.A. in 1989. He started his career at Dia Art Foundation in 1990 in visitor services; became Operations Deputy in 1993, and moved in 2000 to Dia:Beacon as Operations Deputy for the museum project. He was named Managing Director in 2009. In addition, Evans is an artist who works in a range of media and has participated in solo and group exhibitions in New York City, Los Angeles, Paris, Berlin and elsewhere.

About Linda Pace:

Linda Pace (1945–2007), an artist, collector, and philanthropist, was driven by the belief that art is a vital social force. Beginning in 1976, Pace actively worked and exhibited as an artist before later establishing herself as a collector of more than 500 contemporary artworks. Known most prominently as a philanthropist, Linda Pace contributed to the quality of life in San Antonio with CHRISpark, a one-acre public green space, featuring a rhythmic layout of lush foliage, inviting

LINDA PACE FOUNDATION

walkways, areas of repose, sites of play, and most significantly, encounters with art. In 1993, Pace founded Artpace, an artist residency, exhibition and education program in San Antonio that has garnered recognition for nurturing the creative expression of emerging and established artists, while actively engaging youth and adult audiences. Since its founding, Artpace has awarded fellowships to more than 150 artists and served as a catalyst in the careers of five MacArthur Fellows and four Turner Prize nominees.

About the Linda Pace Foundation:

The Linda Pace Foundation was created in 2003 by Pace, and its Board of Trustees is committed to the charitable vision of its founder. Guided by the donor's conviction that contemporary art is essential to a dynamic society, the Linda Pace Foundation fosters the creation, presentation, and understanding of innovative expression through contemporary art. The Foundation commissions and acquires works of contemporary art, publicly exhibits Pace's collection, manages CHRISpark, and helps support Artpace. In 2010 alone, the Linda Pace Foundation has commissioned a significant installation, Jesse Amado's *Days* for the San Antonio Public Library, and has acquired Cornelia Parker's sculpture *Heart of Darkness*, and Robyn O'Neil's large-scale drawing, *Staring into blankness, they fell in order to begin*. For more information on the Foundation and its mission, visit www.lindapacefoundation.org.

Image: Portrait of Steven Evans © Mary Ann Glass

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