

**BERNICE BEREND ROSE TO HEAD THE MENIL COLLECTION'S
DRAWING INSTITUTE AND STUDY CENTER**

Houston, September 17, 2007 — Josef Helfenstein, director of The Menil Collection, has named Bernice Berend Rose to be Chief Curator, responsible for the museum's long-planned Drawing Institute and Study Center. Ms. Rose, who will divide her time between New York City and Houston, will join the Menil on October 1st.

Ms. Rose most recently served as director of drawings and special exhibitions at the PaceWildenstein Gallery in New York. Her projects for the gallery included "Picasso and Drawing" (1995) and, in 2001, an exhibition with Bernard Picasso for the Palazzo Reale in Milan, "Picasso 200 Masterworks." Ms. Rose's most recent exhibition and book was "Picasso, Braque and Early Cinema in Cubism."

Before taking her position at PaceWildenstein, Ms. Rose was a highly regarded senior curator at the Museum of Modern Art. There, over the course of nearly 25 years, she organized many pivotal exhibitions and catalogues that explored the function and importance of drawing, including "Jackson Pollock: Works on Paper" (1968), "Drawing Now" (1976), and "Joseph Beuys: Thinking is Form" (organized in collaboration with Anne Temkin in 1993). She has curated shows and written important texts on Sol LeWitt, Roy Lichtenstein, Picasso, John Chamberlain, Alexander Calder and Robert Rauschenberg.

"Bernice arrives at the Menil at an auspicious time, as we move forward with plans to create a Drawing Institute," said Josef Helfenstein. "As chief curator, she will spearhead its development and be in charge of acquiring new work and presenting major exhibitions." One of her first projects will be a collection-based exhibition, at the Menil, "showing for the first time," said Helfenstein, "a selection of the museum's most important modern and contemporary drawings."

Said Ms. Rose: "I am fortunate and proud to be joining the Menil, an extraordinary institution and organization, and I thank Josef Helfenstein and the Trustees of the Menil for their confidence in me. I look forward to being a member of their distinguished staff and to working with them to create the new Drawing Institute in the spirit of the unique tradition of the founders of this remarkable collection."

With the Drawing Institute and Study Center, the Menil will assume a leading role in all aspects of the field of modern and contemporary drawings – collecting, exhibitions, scholarly research and publication, and conservation. The Drawing Institute, a Menil entity that will eventually occupy its own building, will be an integral part of the Menil's 30-acre "campus," which includes The Menil Collection and the Cy Twombly Gallery (both designed by the Italian architect Renzo Piano); Richmond Hall, which houses site-specific

installations in fluorescent light by Dan Flavin; the Rothko Chapel; and the Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum.

The Menil Collection holds more than 1,200 drawings, watercolors, and collages from the 20th century, including a number of important works by Jasper Johns, which entered the collection as part of the recent David Whitney bequest; Robert Rauschenberg; and John Chamberlain. Ellsworth Kelly's "Tablet" is also a recent addition to the collection. In addition to its modern-drawing holdings, the Menil owns approximately 150 Old Master drawings.

Receiving her B.A. in art from Hunter College in New York, Ms. Rose joined the Museum of Modern Art, working first at the reception desk and eventually for the education and development departments and as a painting and sculpture curator. After joining the prints and drawings department at MoMA, Rose pursued graduate work at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University under a joint scholarship from the museum and the Institute, receiving her M.A. in 1969. She is married to Herbert B. Rose, an attorney with his own practice, whose expertise is in the field of charitable organizations and giving.

**For more information please call Vance Muse, 713 525 9404
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