

EMILY TODD NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MENIL COLLECTION

Houston, August 5, 2008 -- Josef Helfenstein, Director of The Menil Collection, has appointed Emily Leland Todd as the museum's first Deputy Director. In this new position Ms. Todd will work closely with Mr. Helfenstein to implement the Menil's long-range strategic plan.

"The work of Dominique and John de Menil has shaped my life," said Ms. Todd. "I distinctly remember childhood visits to the Institute of the Arts at Rice University, the Contemporary Arts Museum and The Museum of Fine Arts, and, later, the opening of the Menil Collection. It is an honor to become a part of this extraordinary institution." She assumes her new role on August 18.

Ms. Todd will oversee the Menil's Office of Planning and Advancement, including development, membership, public relations, and special events departments. She will also be involved with the creation and execution of the Menil's Master Site Plan.

She comes to the Menil from the Office of Mayor Bill White, where she served as Assistant for Cultural Affairs, advising the Administration on a wide range of art and historic preservation matters. For more than eight years prior to that appointment, Ms. Todd was a Senior Grant Officer at Houston Endowment Inc.

Ms. Todd graduated from Princeton University with a BA in Art and Archaeology. After working in various curatorial positions at the Contemporary Arts Museum, she earned an MA in Art and Art History from Rice University. As the first Program Director of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, from 1988 to 1995, Ms. Todd helped build that New York organization's highly regarded international grants program. From 1995 to 1999, she served as Executive Director of DiverseWorks, the nonprofit alternative visual and performing arts space located in the warehouse district north of downtown Houston.

"Emily is coming on board at an exciting time for the Menil," said Mr. Helfenstein. She and I share a vision for this treasured institution and look forward to deepening its connections to our wonderful community."

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