



For Immediate Release

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## **Carol Damian Named Director and Chief Curator of the new Frost Art Museum at FIU**

**Miami- (Nov. 4, 2008)** - Carol Damian, professor and former chairperson of FIU's School of Art + Art History, has been named director and chief curator of The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University located on the University Park Campus. Damian, a respected member of Miami's arts community, has served as interim director of the Frost since May, and curator of the museum's permanent collection since 2006.

Damian was tapped by Berkman earlier this year to head the Frost as it gears up for the Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> opening of its spectacular new home -- the 46,000-square-foot building designed by internationally acclaimed design director Yann Weymouth of global architectural firm Hellmuth Obata + Kassabaum (HOK). The new Frost Museum includes nine galleries and a total of 10,000 square feet of gallery space. The museum opens with six exhibitions including *Modern Masters from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*. The Frost is the first stop on a national tour for the show.

Her appointment ends the university's lengthy search for a new director, and ushers in a new era at the museum with the opening of the new museum building this year.

"Dr. Damian has proven herself to be a dynamic leader who combines scholarly experience, leadership skills and a passion for art with the personal skills to build strong ties with the university and South Florida communities," said FIU Provost and Executive Vice President Ronald M. Berkman. "As director, she will build a tradition of excellence..."

The Museum opened in 1977 as a small gallery, but quickly distinguished itself as one of the city's most dynamic art institutions, ultimately helping to establish Miami's place as a beacon for art and art education in the Southeast. Founder and painter Jim Couper and Director Emerita Dahlia Morgan brought to the museum

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artistically daring, critically acclaimed exhibitions and artists, establishing the museum as a leader in the Miami arts community.

“In less than a month, we see this dream become a reality. The Smithsonian exhibition is definitely one of the most exciting things to happen in Miami and is beautiful in the grand gallery spaces.”

The museum’s permanent collection includes more than 6,000 works of art including the Coral Gables Metropolitan Museum & Art Center Collection, the Betty Laird Perry Emerging Artist Collection and the Oscar B. Cintas Fellows Collection.

An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, The Frost provides art education for all ages, offering engaging, innovative programs including Art Smart for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, guided tours of its Sculpture Park and lectures by renowned artists and luminaries through its Steven & Dorothea Green Critics Lecture Series.

Damian is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. She received her MA in Pre-Columbian Art and her PH.D in Latin American History from the University of Miami. A specialist in Latin American and Caribbean Art, Damian will continue to teach classes in the new museum.

The Frost Art Museum at FIU is an AAM accredited university museum and Smithsonian affiliate. The museum is located at 10975 SW 17<sup>th</sup> Street at FIU’s University Park campus. To celebrate the opening of the new museum building, the Frost will be open daily Nov. 29 through Dec. 7 from 10- 5. Regular hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday from 12-5. For more information, please visit [www.frostartmuseum.org](http://www.frostartmuseum.org) or call 305-348-2890.

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