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## **Tim Rodgers Appointed as New Director of The Wolfsonian–FIU**

**MIAMI BEACH (May 11, 2015)** — Tim Rodgers has been named director of The Wolfsonian–FIU. Rodgers comes to FIU from Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA).

“We are looking forward to having Dr. Rodgers lead The Wolfsonian–FIU into the next phase of its development. The museum is an incredible resource to our community and the art world,” said FIU Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton. “His track record of creating synergies between art and education made him the ideal candidate.”

Rodgers officially takes the reins on July 1. The Wolfsonian–FIU is a museum, library, and research center devoted to art and design, with a collection of about 120,000 objects from the period 1885–1945. The collection includes a variety of media, from furniture and art to rare books and propaganda posters.

Museum founder Mitchell “Micky” Wolfson Jr. praised the selection of Rodgers as director.

“Tim is fully poised for his new challenge. His appointment enthusiastically approved by The Wolfsonian and FIU will give us all new confidence and undoubtedly new directions in order to maintain the institution as a world leader in transmitting the importance of design from one generation to the next, which is the highest responsibility of an educational research institution,” Wolfson said.

As director of The Wolfsonian–FIU, Rodgers hopes to expand the physical museum, as well as begin the process of making most of the museum’s permanent collection available online. In 2012, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation awarded the museum a \$5 million, five-year

grant to support greater public access to the museum's collection of art and design, especially by enhancing its online offerings.

The physical and digital expansions mean a bright future for The Wolfsonian–FIU, said Rodgers, whose relationship with The Wolfsonian–FIU goes back to 1989, when The Wolfsonian's *Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts* published his first scholarly article.

“This will allow us to put more of the permanent collection on display, in the building and online,” he said. “We will have more programs connecting the museum's collection with a community of supporters, students, scholars and researchers around the world. The Wolfsonian will be at the forefront of all conversations about the future of museums, visual studies, modernist scholarship and audience engagement.”

Rodgers has served as director of SMOCA in Scottsdale, Arizona for the past six years. Rodgers also has a background in higher education that includes an appointment as visiting professor of contemporary art and theory at College of Santa Fe from 2005–08.

He also served in various academic and leadership capacities at the College of Santa Fe, Lawrence University and the Wriston Art Center Galleries. Rodgers earned a bachelor's in art from Arizona State University. He also holds a master's and Ph.D. in History of Art from Brown University.

“I want to ensure that more people recognize the fact that The Wolfsonian–FIU is a world-class museum, one that intelligently and creatively engages with a vast array of cultural artifacts to help all of us understand our history, our present and our future,” Rodgers said.

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#### About Tim Rodgers

For the past six years, Tim Rodgers has served as the director of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) in Scottsdale, Arizona as well as Vice President of The Scottsdale Cultural Council (SCC), a private, non-profit organization that administers the city's arts and cultural programs and facilities. As director of SMOCA, he successfully oversaw over 20 employees and a budget of \$2.2 million while producing up to 12 exhibitions annually. He attracted 160 new works assessed at \$4.25 million to the museum's permanent collection and increased its endowment by \$520,000.

Through innovative programming, facility enhancements and collaborations with local organizations, SMOCA flourished and achieved its highest attendance in the museum's history. During his tenure, the museum garnered national grants from the Warhol Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, among others, received various accolades by national media, and was named *One of the Thirteen Best Western Museums* by Art. Ltd., 2011.

In his function as VP of the SCC, Rodgers assisted the council's CEO with managing more than 100 employees and an annual budget of \$10 million. The SCC is publicly as well as privately funded and its mission is to manage and connect with the community the city-owned SMOCA, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, and Scottsdale Public Art Program.

From 2002–09 Rodgers was Chief Curator of the New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, where he oversaw five curators and a collection of 25,000 objects, worked closely with the development staff in attracting donations and spearheaded a \$30 million addition to the museum.

Rodgers' academic profile includes an appointment as Visiting Professor of Contemporary Art and Theory at College of Santa Fe from 2005–08. Prior to that, he served in various academic and leadership capacities at Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, including as Assistant then Associate Professor of Art History; as Director of the university's London Study Centre in London, England; and as Director and Curator of the Wriston Art Center Galleries. Rodgers has over fifteen journal articles or museum publications and over forty

professional paper presentations. Rodgers earned a B.A. in Art from Arizona State University, an A.M. in History of Art as well as a Ph.D. in History of Art both from Brown University.

#### About The Wolfsonian–Florida International University

The Wolfsonian–FIU is a museum, library, and research center that uses objects to illustrate the persuasive power of art and design, to explore what it means to be modern, and to tell the story of social, historical, and technological changes that have transformed our world. The collection comprises approximately 180,000 objects from the 1850s to the 1950s—the height of the Industrial Revolution through the aftermath of the Second World War—in a variety of media including furniture; industrial-design objects; works in glass, ceramics, and metal; rare books; periodicals; ephemera; works on paper; paintings; textiles; and medals.

The Wolfsonian is located at 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL. Admission is \$12 for adults; \$8 for seniors, students, and children ages 6–18; and free for Wolfsonian members, State University System of Florida staff and students with ID, and children under 6. The museum is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 10am–6pm; Friday, 10am–9pm; Sunday, noon–6pm; and is closed on Wednesday. Contact us at 305.531.1001 or visit us online at [wolfsonian.org](http://wolfsonian.org) for further information.

The Wolfsonian receives generous and ongoing support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.

#### About Florida International University

Florida International University is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as R1: Doctoral Universities - Highest Research Activity and recognized as a Carnegie engaged university. It is a public research university with colleges and schools that offers 196 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, computer science, international relations, architecture, law and medicine. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU contributes almost \$9 billion each year to the local economy. FIU is Worlds Ahead in finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. FIU has awarded more than 220,000 degrees and enrolls more than 54,000 students in two campuses and three centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell, FIU@I-75, and the Miami Beach Urban Studios. FIU's Medina Aquarius Program houses the Aquarius Reef Base, a unique underwater research facility in the Florida Keys. FIU also supports artistic and cultural engagement through its three museums: Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, The Wolfsonian–FIU, and the Jewish Museum of Florida–FIU. FIU is a member of Conference USA and more than 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. For more information about FIU, visit [fiu.edu](http://fiu.edu).