



ELI AND EDYTHE **BROAD ART MUSEUM** MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Marc-Olivier Wahler Appointed Director of Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University

East Lansing, MI – March 9, 2016 – Michigan State University announced today that it has appointed Marc-Olivier Wahler as Director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU (Broad MSU). Wahler will succeed Founding Director Michael Rush, who passed away in March 2015. Wahler currently serves as Founding Director of the Chalet Society in Paris; Artistic Advisor for De Appel Arts Center, Amsterdam and CI Contemporary Istanbul; and Founding Director of Transformer Sculpture Park, Melides, Portugal. He will assume his role at the Broad MSU on July 1, 2016.

An internationally recognized curator, scholar, and museum professional, Wahler brings more than 20 years of experience to the Broad MSU. Throughout his career, Wahler has focused on contemporary art as a platform for building and strengthening communities and catalyzing interdisciplinary collaboration and exploration.

“As the new Director, Mr. Wahler will bring a broad, international perspective to campus,” said MSU Provost June Pierce Youatt. “Such a perspective has always been consistent with our goal of having the Broad Art Museum serve as an MSU portal from which to explore the greater world.”

At the Palais de Tokyo, where Wahler served as Director and Chief Curator from 2006-12, he brought together artists with experts from a wide array of disciplines, notably Gianni Motti’s collaboration with the Large Hadron Collider engineers at CERN, Geneva; Robin Meier’s collaboration with the Pasteur Institute, Paris; and Micol Assael’s collaboration with the Moscow Power Engineering Institute. Wahler exhibited established artists such as Charles Ray, Jeremy Deller, Tatiana Trouvé, Ugo Rondinone, Carol Bove, Adam McEwen, Cady Noland, and Tom Friedman, as well as young and emerging talents—including the first museum presentations in France for Camille Henrot, Ulla von Brandenburg, Oscar Tuazon, Valentin Carron, and Koki Tanaka. During this time, he also founded and served as Editor-in-Chief of *PALAIS / Magazine*, the museum’s publication exploring contemporary art, criticism, and philosophy.

“Marc-Olivier Wahler’s experience with international arts institutions makes him an ideal director for the Broad Art Museum at MSU, which in just a few years has demonstrated its global reach far beyond East Lansing,” said Eli Broad. “Edye and I are impressed with Marc-Olivier’s curatorial abilities and his deep appreciation for contemporary art, and we know he will continue the Broad Art Museum’s tradition of presenting thought-provoking and scholarly exhibitions.”

At the Swiss Institute in New York, where he served as Director from 2000-06, Wahler curated large-scale exhibitions with artists including Urs Fischer, Takashi Murakami, Jim Shaw, and Jutta Koether, and established initiatives to encourage collaboration amongst artists and leaders in fields as disparate as urban planning, chemistry, and sociology. As Co-Founder of CAN, the Centre d’art Neuchâtel, Switzerland, and director from 1995-2000, Wahler integrated researchers at the University of Neuchâtel into the institution’s contemporary art programming, including site-specific performances and solo and group exhibitions with Steven Parrino, Fischli and Weiss, Roman Signer, Cheryl Donegan, Philippe Parreno, and Mike Kelley, among others.

“Marc-Olivier has a compelling vision of the Broad Art Museum as a dynamic hub of creativity that engages the campus and community to push boundaries, encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration, and create innovative solutions to complex problems,” said Christopher P. Long, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters at MSU and Chair of the University’s search committee. “We in the College of Arts & Letters look forward to collaborating with him as he brings his vision of a 21st-century museum to life here at Michigan State University.”

“Marc-Olivier brings many years of experience working with some of the most exciting contemporary artists from around the art world to East Lansing,” said Bonnie Larson, Broad MSU International Board Chair. “I am confident that Marc-Olivier’s vision and leadership will bring new insights and energy to the MSU campus, the local community, and beyond.”

Wahler has curated over 400 exhibitions around the globe, principally as museum director/chief curator, but also as a consultant and independent curator, including *From Synchrony to Synchronicity* (Basel, 2015), a large-scale installation with fireflies, crickets, and algorithmic music by Swiss artist Robin Meier that explored the principles of order in nature and collective intelligence. Wahler writes regularly for international magazines, including *Flash Art International*, *Parkett Magazine*, and *Art Press Magazine*, among others, and has contributed to many academic publications and exhibition catalogs on a range of contemporary art topics, including the art encyclopedia *From Yodeling to Quantum Physics* in five volumes.

“I am honored to have been selected to serve as Director of the Broad Art Museum at MSU. The Museum’s mission of employing international contemporary art and ideas as a platform for education and experimentation resonates deeply with so much of the work I have undertaken throughout my career,” said Marc-Olivier Wahler. “I look forward to collaborating with faculty and students conducting innovative research across the University, and building upon the incredible work of the Museum’s staff to deepen the institution’s role as a generator for experimentation and cross-disciplinary exchange, and a vibrant resource for the entire East Lansing community.”

A Swiss native, Wahler was honored with the Meret Oppenheim Prize in 2013, Switzerland’s highest cultural award in the contemporary arts, and was made Chevalier of the order of Arts and Letters in France in 2011. He has served as a guest lecturer at colleges and universities around the world, and holds a Bachelor’s degree in English Literature and Master’s degrees in Art History and Philosophy from the University of Neuchâtel.

About the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University

Opened on November 10, 2012, the dynamic 46,000-square-foot museum serves as both a teaching institution and a cultural hub for East Lansing and the region. In keeping with MSU’s commitment to applying knowledge to benefit society and further the global common good, the Broad MSU’s program of original and traveling exhibitions; initiatives with living artists; performances; and educational offerings for students, faculty, and the community make the museum a center for questioning and understanding the modern world. With a collection containing 7,500 objects from the Greek and Roman periods through the Renaissance and on to the Modern, the Broad MSU is uniquely able to contextualize the wide range of contemporary art practices within a firm historical context. The museum is named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift of \$28 million. For more information, visit www.broadmuseum.msu.edu.

About Michigan State University

Michigan State University has been working to advance the common good in uncommon ways for more than 150 years. One of the top research universities in the world, MSU focuses its vast resources on creating solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges, while providing life-changing opportunities to a diverse and inclusive academic community through more than 200 programs of study in 17 degree-granting colleges.

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