

## **Brett Abbott** **Director of Collections and Exhibitions**

Brett Abbott serves as Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. Abbott leads the Carter's Curatorial, Conservation, Publications, Archives, and Registration departments, as well as exhibition design, photo services, and preparations. Since his appointment in 2016, Abbott has set the vision for the curatorial team, developed and overseen the implementation of a long-range guide for acquisitions and collection growth, and has established the museum's collection care and stewardship plan. He spearheaded a renovation and reimagining of the Carter's internal galleries, completed in 2019, to improve visitor experience and was instrumental in a reinstallation of the permanent collection that moved toward an entirely new thematic presentation, connecting artists and work through time. Abbott has also helped to significantly expand the museum's collections and endowment, with notable acquisitions of works including Ruth Asawa's *Untitled (S.453, Hanging Three-Lobed, Three-Layered Continuous Form within a Form)* (ca. 1957–59); George Bellow's *The Fisherman* (1917); Dawoud Bey's *Night Coming Tenderly, Black: Untitled #4 (Leaves and Porch)* (2017); Gabriel Dawe's *Plexus no. 34* (2016); Otis Dozier's *Gathering Pecans* (1941); and Thomas Moran's *Mount Superior, as viewed from Alta, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Utah* (ca. 1879).

Abbott has also helped position the Carter's conservation program as a leader in the field by securing cutting-edge diagnostic equipment for scientific research and cultivating the museum's fellowship and internship programs dedicated to training the next generation of conservators.

Over the past two decades, Abbott has organized more than thirty exhibitions and contributed to more than a dozen publications. A specialist in twentieth- and twenty-first century American photography, Abbott spent five years at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, where he served as Keough Family Curator of Photography and Head of Collections. During this time, he grew the High's photography collection by 2,000 prints, organized more than twenty exhibitions, and oversaw the development of the museum's collection acquisitions, care, and access programs. Abbott also previously held the role of Associate Curator in the department of photographs at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles from 2002 to 2011. His honors include the 2012 Ansel Adams Fellowship from the Center for Creative Photography for his research on Wynn Bullock; the 2010 Lucie Award for Curator of the Year for the exhibition *Engaged Observers: Documentary Photography since the Sixties*; and the 2007 Lucie Award for Curator of the Year for his work on Edward Weston.

Abbott is a graduate of the Getty Leadership Institute's Executive Education Program for Museum Leaders. He earned his master of arts from Williams College and his bachelor of arts from Stanford University, both in art history.