

# STAR WARS

# AND THE POWER OF COSTUME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Exhibition Biographies

**Christoph Heinrich**  
**Frederick and Jan Mayer Director, Denver Art Museum**



Since his tenure as the Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the Denver Art Museum (DAM) began in 2010, Christoph Heinrich has continually pushed the boundaries of traditional art museum experiences and made the DAM one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in the Rocky Mountain West. Through immersive, world exclusive exhibitions like *Becoming Van Gogh* (2009) and *Brilliant: Cartier in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (2014), Heinrich has elevated the DAM's reputation for creating original content to a new high. His vision for engaging audiences with the collections in new and meaningful ways has resulted in three campus-wide exhibitions tied to a single theme. These shows, including *Marvelous Mud* (2009) and *Spun* (2011), saw unprecedented collaborations across departments to showcase the breadth and depth of the museum's collections.

In addition to highlighting the collections through exhibitions, Heinrich has championed landmark acquisitions, including a bequest of more than 20 Impressionist landscape paintings in 2014, which came as a result of the acclaimed exhibition *Nature as Muse*, curated by Heinrich.

Heinrich came to Denver as the DAM's Polly and Mark Addison Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art in 2007 and served a year as deputy director before being named director. In his curatorial role for the museum, Heinrich curated the 2009 exhibition *Embrace!*, which offered 17 contemporary artists from around the world the opportunity to create installations inspired by the unique architecture of the museum's Frederic C. Hamilton Building. In addition to curating renowned exhibitions at the DAM, Heinrich has juried several exhibitions, written articles including book reviews for the weekly magazine *Die Zeit* and compiled numerous catalogs for various exhibitions.

Heinrich originally hails from Germany. Before joining the DAM, Heinrich was at the Hamburg Kunsthalle where, during his 12-year tenure, he organized more than 50 exhibitions. Some of his most prominent exhibitions there included *Andy Warhol: Photography*, which also toured at the International Center for Photography in New York, *Francis Bacon: The Portraits*, *Mahjong: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection* and *Daniel Richter: A Major Survey*.

Heinrich attended the Universität Wien in Vienna, which is the oldest university in the German-speaking world. There he studied art history, German literature and dramatics. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität in Munich, Germany.

**Stefania Van Dyke**  
**Experience & Interpretation Specialist, Denver Art Museum**



In December of 2012, Stefania Van Dyke joined the Denver Art Museum (DAM) as interpretation specialist for textile art and special projects. Most recently, Van Dyke has served as the interpretation lead for *Star Wars™* and *the Power of Costume*. Previously, Van Dyke served as lead educator for *Modern Masters: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Icons from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery*, *Brilliant: Cartier in the 20th Century*, *Castiglione: Lost Genius—Masterworks on Paper from the Royal Collection*, *Wyeth: Andrew and Jamie in the Studio* and *Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980s–90s*.

Prior to the DAM, Van Dyke worked as a museum studies and practice editor at Left Coast Press, Inc. and as deputy director for learning at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens in Miami. She has also worked at the Brooklyn Museum, the Morgan Library and Museum, and the Jewish Museum in New York, as well as the David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. She has a master's in art history from the University of Chicago and a master's in museum education from Bank Street College of Education.

**Saul Sopoci Drake**  
**Project Director, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service (SITES)**

Saul Sopoci Drake is a project director with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). His professional experience has focused on developing and promoting new and unique ways to tell stories through exhibitions, and he has had the privilege of carrying this out through esteemed organizations such as the SITES, the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Tribe Museum. Over the course of his work, Saul has become attuned to how exhibition developers need to reach out to people in innovative ways. He has a M.S. in Cultural Anthropology and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and has been working in the museum world for over 10 years.



**Laela French**  
**Director of Archives, Skywalker Ranch, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art**



Laela French, director of archives for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, has been overseeing the *Star Wars™* collections since 2001. During the past 15 years, she has worked closely with *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* production teams to collect and preserve the costumes, props, models and artworks used in the making of the *Star Wars* prequel films and the fourth *Indiana Jones* film. She manages a collection of over 200,000 objects that is housed in over 100,000 square feet of storage space. In addition, Laela has both curated and managed over 60 *Star Wars* exhibition installations in the United States and worldwide at the world's finest art and science museums. Prior to joining Lucasfilm, Laela was the Collections Manager for Loans and Exhibitions at the Autry Museum of Western Heritage. She was also the Chief Registrar for the Long Beach Museum of Art in Long Beach, California. Previously, Laela worked for many years as a regional archivist in Los

Angeles for the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Art. She received her B.A. in Art History from Loyola Marymount University and the Université de la Sorbonne and her M.A. in Art History from the California State University at Long Beach.

**Myriam Springuel**

**Director, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibitions Service (SITES)**

Myriam Springuel brings 30 years of experience in museum management to her position as director for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). This is a return to SITES for Springuel who served as director of education and later associate director for programs at SITES from 1986 to 1994. After leaving SITES, she founded Springuel Consulting to help museums and cultural organizations respond to change and prepare for the future with clarity about their mission and priorities. Prior to SITES, she curated fine arts exhibitions and developed education programs at The Ringling in Sarasota, Fla. Springuel has a master's degree in art history from the University of Maryland, and graduated magna cum laude from Tufts University.



**E. Warren Perry, Jr.**

**Curator of Collections, American Museum of Science and Energy**

**Former writer, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian**



Warren Perry has been a writer, lecturer, researcher and curator for seven museums and five universities since 1981. In those 35 years, he has delivered planetarium talks, choreographed laser shows, installed artwork from museums all over the world, and given over 40 lectures at the Smithsonian, the National Civil War Museum, the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo, Kyoto University and major American museums including the Gibbes and the Michener. In 2014, he received the Secretary of the Smithsonian's Research Prize. He has graduate degrees in medieval literature from the University of Memphis and in drama from the

Catholic University of America. He is currently Curator of Collections at the American Museum of Science and Energy at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

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