

## ***Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980s–90s*** **Exhibition Biographies**

### **Florence Müller, Avenir Foundation Curator of Textile Art, Curator of Fashion, Denver Art Museum**

Florence Müller is a highly-regarded fashion and art historian who joined the Denver Art Museum (DAM) in 2015 as the Avenir Foundation Curator of Textile Art, Curator of Fashion. *Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980s–90s* is Müller's inaugural exhibition in her new role.

Her first collaboration with the DAM was as the chief curator for the 2012 *Yves Saint Laurent: The Retrospective* exhibition for which the DAM was the exclusive U.S. venue, and she now oversees the Neusteter Textile Collection, housed in the 7,500-sq.-ft. Textile Art Gallery on level six of the museum's North Building. Müller's previous extensive experience with museums and collections in France, and as an independent curator, has led to the curation and contribution to more than 100 exhibitions worldwide.



Since the 1980s Müller has worked on numerous major exhibitions that have debuted in Europe, Asia and beyond, including *Dior, the New Look Revolution*; *Yves Saint Laurent Style*; *Impressions Dior*; *Costume Jewelry for Haute Couture* and many others. Most recently, Müller curated *Esprit Dior* which opened in Shanghai and then traveled to Tokyo and Seoul.

Beyond her curatorial practice, Müller is an experienced writer, freelance journalist, consultant, juror and professor. She has worked with luxury fashion companies like Dior, L'Oréal, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Chanel and Céline. Müller studied Worldwide History of Art and Archaeology at the École du Louvre, Paris, and received a master's of art history and archeology from the University of Paris.

### **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 four campus-wide exhibitions tied to a single theme. These shows, including *Dance!* (2016), *In Bloom: Painting Flowers in the Age of Impressionism* (2015), *Spun* (2011) and *Marvelous Mud* (2009), 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.

### **Jane Burke, Curatorial Assistant, Textile Art and Fashion, Denver Art Museum**

Jane Burke is the curatorial assistant for the department of textile art and fashion at the Denver Art Museum (DAM). In this role, Burke coordinates curatorial projects including exhibitions, loans and acquisitions, as well as researching the permanent collection to better interpret artworks for the museum's audience. Since arriving at DAM in December 2013, Burke has worked on several textile art exhibitions including *First Glance—Second Look* and *Creative Crossroads*. Burke has worked extremely closely with curator Florence Müller on the development and production of the department's first fashion exhibition, *Shock Wave: Japanese Fashion Design, 1980s-90s*, including catalog research and writing.



Burke received her master's degree in Asian art history and Chinese language from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her master's thesis focused on the interpretation of Chinese minority textiles in museums and private collections. While in Hawaii, she gained more than eight years of museum field experience in multiple facets at both the Honolulu Academy of Arts and The Contemporary Museum, now known as the Honolulu Museum of Art. She curated gallery rotations and temporary exhibitions in the Asian art department and assisted in the coordination of major international traveling exhibitions, including *The Dragon's Gift: The Sacred Arts of Bhutan*. Just prior to relocating to Denver, she served as a collections manager, helping to facilitate the institutional merge between the Honolulu Academy of Arts and The Contemporary Museum.

### **Joan Agajanian Quinn, national exhibition lender**



Photo by Alexo Wandael

Joan Agajanian Quinn, a second generation Angeleno, graduated from Westlake School for Girls and University of Southern California. After several years as a master teacher, Quinn was appointed the west coast editor of *Interview* magazine by Andy Warhol, and then society editor of Hearst's *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner*. Her work with Condé Nast included staff positions on *Condé Nast Traveler* and *House and Garden*. Quinn, the longest sitting member appointed to the California Arts Council (17 years), served two terms each on the Beverly Hills Arts Commission, the Beverly Hills Architectural Commission and the California Film Commission.

Quinn organized the Armenian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 1999, 2001 and 2003, bringing Armenia to the forefront at one of the most prestigious art exhibitions in the world, and was the honorary commissioner for eight years. She continues her work as a trustee of the Armenian Library and Museum of America in Boston and the Pilgrim School in Los Angeles. Quinn has served on the board of public television's KCET Women's Council. For the past 12 years, Quinn has also been a primary non-governmental organization delegate to the United Nations where she represents the Armenian International Women's Association.

Having cultivated strong relationships with several Japanese fashion designers of the '80s and '90s, Quinn loaned ten looks to the *Shock Wave* exhibition.

### **Susan Damour, local exhibition lender and Regional Administrator for the U.S. General Service Administration's Rocky Mountain Region**

Susan B. Damour was appointed Regional Administrator for the U.S. General Service Administration's (GSA) Rocky Mountain Region effective October 26, 2009.



As Regional Administrator, Damour oversees all of GSA's activities in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, including management of federal real estate and a wide range of acquisition support. She is responsible for an inventory of 165 government-owned buildings and 491 active leased buildings that house nearly 50,000 federal employees. Over \$350 million in procurements, primarily for the Department of Defense, pass through her region every year.

In her current role, Damour serves as GSA's representative on the President's National Prevention Council, an organization comprised of 20 federal agencies that promotes wellness nationwide. She is a founding member of the West Metro Sustainability Partnership, a collaborative effort dedicated to sharing sustainable practices throughout the community. Participating organizations include GSA, the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the City of Lakewood and Red Rocks Community College.

Damour's interest in art and fashion began at a young age. Her mother was a fashion and costume designer on Broadway, which influenced her into adulthood. Traces of her lifelong passion for arts and culture are evident even through her federal government work. Many of the federal government buildings she oversees feature original artwork from regional artists.

Damour describes her experience with the federal government as terrific. Helping people as a public servant has been the most rewarding part of her life. She has been a Colorado resident for more than 50 years, is married, and has a daughter and five grandchildren.

Previously, Damour served as Regional Administrator for the Rocky Mountain Region from 1998 to 2001, at which time she helped coordinate the then-largest wind energy purchase by federal agencies to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Earth Day. Before returning to GSA this time, Damour worked with the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization, where she led stakeholder outreach and expanded statewide membership as the Director of Outreach. Damour has a bachelor of arts in liberal arts from Colorado Woman's College.

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