

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Tom Loughman Appointed 11th Director and C.E.O.  
of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**

Following an international search of 80 candidates and an unanimous decision by the Board of Trustees, Thomas J. Loughman has been appointed the 11th Director and C.E.O. of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Conn. Loughman comes to the Wadsworth Atheneum with more than 20 years of museum experience, most recently serving as the Associate Director of Program and Planning at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass. Loughman will begin work at the Wadsworth Atheneum Feb. 1, 2016.

“With the internationally-acclaimed completion of our contemporary and European gallery reinstallations, the Wadsworth Atheneum is now extremely well positioned to exhibit and interpret its world-renowned permanent collection,” said Henry R. Martin, President of the Board of Trustees. “The strategic and programming skill sets that Tom brings to us, along with his global perspective and experience, are perfectly aligned with this goal. We are truly excited about the next phase of the Wadsworth Atheneum's legacy under Tom's leadership.”

“The opportunity to lead America’s oldest continuously-operating art museum during this pivotal moment is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I embrace wholeheartedly. I am excited to be part of the distinguished tradition of leadership at the Wadsworth Atheneum, and to get to work with the impressive and accomplished professional staff at the museum,” said Loughman. “I am also eager for my family to become active in the fabric of a new community and contribute to the future of the museum and Hartford, a city that has so much to offer through its revered academic institutions and strong cultural history.”

In the last seven years at the Clark, one of only a few institutions in the United States that is both a museum and a center for research and scholarship in the visual arts, Loughman spearheaded several initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the museum and its collections on a global spectrum. He was the driving force behind the museum’s first international touring

exhibition, “Great French Paintings from the Clark,” which brought the heart of that institution’s collections to more than 3.5 million visitors at 11 sites in Europe, North America and Asia. That project enabled a series of exchange relationships that Loughman stewarded with major international institutions, including the Museo Nacional del Prado in Madrid and the Shanghai Museum. Loughman also devoted time researching the Clark’s pre-history, tracing the historical record of museum founder Sterling Clark’s 1908 expedition through China, while making connections with China’s present-day museum leaders. His efforts paved the way for Clark–exclusive exhibitions that brought artifacts from China to the United States for the first time, including “Unearthed: Recent Archaeological Discoveries from Northern China,” (2012), “Cast for Eternity: Ancient Ritual Bronzes from the Shanghai Museum” (2014) and the Clark’s own showcase of its founder’s expedition, “Through Shên-kan: Sterling Clark in China” (2012), which Loughman curated for the Clark. Recently, Loughman led the launch of an exchange program to bring Chinese museum professionals to the United States for training in American museum practices, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. Loughman currently serves on the Board of Directors for the U.S. National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM-US), and is involved with both the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD).

In addition to these special assignments, Loughman oversaw earned revenue activities at the Clark, directed its publications program, led strategic planning efforts and institutional reorganization and played a key role in the Clark’s recent award–winning campus expansion program. He also served as a member of the Clark’s management team, budget review committee and financial leadership group.

Also paramount to his time at the Clark was Loughman’s leadership in a number of civic and community associations in Williamstown and the Berkshires region. He served as Vice President and President of the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce during a period of strategic planning, was part of a task force for the Town of Williamstown Economic Development Committee, and was active in mentoring students and young professionals entering the field through his work with the Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art Advisory Board and the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (BHip).

“During his tenure at the Clark, Tom spearheaded a number of important initiatives resulting in the expansion of the Institute’s curatorial programs and other national and international projects,” said Michael Conforti, former director of the Clark Art Institute. “Tom has the creativity and commitment, as well as the financial acumen, to link the Wadsworth

Atheneum's extraordinary collections with the Hartford community in innovative and imaginative ways. I know Tom will work tirelessly to harness the new energy in Hartford and the surrounding region to see that the Atheneum contributes to this revitalization.”

Prior to his work at the Clark, Loughman served as the Curator of European Art and the Assistant to the Director for Exhibitions at the Phoenix Art Museum in Phoenix, Ariz.; earlier he was a National Endowment for the Arts Curatorial Fellow, Department of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia, Pa.; held teaching positions at Pennsylvania State University and elsewhere; and worked in various roles at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, Mass., the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown, Mass. and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Loughman holds a Ph.D. in Art History from Rutgers University, a M.A. from the Clark/Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art and an A.B. from Georgetown University. He is a J. William Fulbright Fellow, a Samuel H. Kress Foundation Travel Fellow, a Rutgers University Dissertation Fellow and a Rutgers University Excellence Fellow. Loughman also attended the Museum Leadership Institute at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, Calif. in 2008.

Loughman will relocate to the Hartford area with his wife, Sara, and two young daughters.

Loughman replaces outgoing Director and C.E.O. Susan L. Talbott upon her retirement from the post. Talbott departs following a major, \$33 million renovation of the Wadsworth Atheneum’s historic campus—which received wide, international acclaim—and leaving a legacy of commitment to community engagement.

The Search Committee for the new Director and C.E.O. was co-chaired by Board President Martin and Susan A. Rottner, and included 10 other Trustees: Duffield Ashmead IV, Jeffrey N. Brown, Susan R. Chandler, Cheryl A. Chase, David W. Dangremond, Michael Klein, Thomas A. McEachin, William R. Peelle, Jr, Matthew A. Schaefer and Karen Cronin Wheat. The Committee was aided by international executive search firm Korn Ferry.

### **About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art**

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest continuously operating public art museum in the United States. The museum’s nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The Wadsworth Atheneum’s five connected buildings—representing

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architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Hours: Wednesday – Friday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Free “happy hour” admission 4 – 5 p.m. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: [thewadsworth.org](http://thewadsworth.org).

### **About the Clark**

The Clark Art Institute, located in Williamstown in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, is one of a small number of institutions globally that is both an art museum and a center for research, critical discussion, and higher education in the visual arts. Opened in 1955, the Clark houses exceptional European and American paintings and sculpture, extensive collections of master prints and drawings, English silver, and early photography. Acting as convener through its Research and Academic Program, the Clark gathers an international community of scholars to participate in a lively program of conferences, colloquia, and workshops on topics of vital importance to the visual arts. The Clark library, consisting of more than 240,000 volumes, is one of the nation’s premier art history libraries. The Clark also houses and co-sponsors the Williams College Graduate Program in the History of Art. The Clark is located at 225 South St. in Williamstown, Mass.

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