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LACMA Names Rita Gonzalez Head of Contemporary Art



Rita Gonzalez.

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The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announced today that [Rita Gonzalez](#) was appointed curator and head of its department of contemporary art. Gonzalez has been at LACMA since 2006 and has served as interim department head since 2016. In addition, [Leah Lehmbeck](#), has been named head of its department of European painting and sculpture and American art.

During her tenure at the institution, Gonzalez curated a number of exhibitions addressing topics in contemporary Latinx and Latin American art including “Phantom Sightings: Art after the Chicano Movement” (2008); “Asco: Elite of the Obscure, A Retrospective, 1972–1987” (2011); and, more recently, “A Universal History of Infamy” (2018), in collaboration with José [Luis Blondet](#) and [Pilar Tompkins Rivas](#). She has also assisted LACMA with acquisitions of contemporary art, spearheading LACMA’s Fiftieth Anniversary Artist [Gifts Initiative](#).

Lehmbeck joined LACMA in 2014 and has been acting department head since 2017. Among the exhibitions she’s organized at the museum are “Delacroix’s Greece on the Ruins at Missolonghi” (2014) and “To Rome and Back: Individualism and Authority in Art, 1500–1800” (2018). Lehmbeck also serves as the representative for the curatorial team in planning discussions for the museum’s new [Peter Zumthor](#)–designed building.

She has been charged with securing locations for temporary exhibitions of LACMA’s sculpture collections while the museum is closed during construction. The new 387,500-square-foot structure, which is slated to open in 2023, will replace four buildings—The Ahmanson, the Hammer, the Art of the Americas, and the Leo S. Bing Center—and will house the museum’s permanent collection.