



For Immediate Release

Contact: John J. Van Heest, Jr.
302.656.6466 x7110
jvanheest@thedcca.org

Carina Evangelista appointed as the first Gretchen Hupfel Curator of Contemporary Art at the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts

Newly endowed position will help guide the DCCA toward a leadership role in contemporary art

Wilmington, Del. – 23 May 2008 - The Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts is pleased to announce the appointment of Carina Evangelista as DCCA's first Gretchen Hupfel Curator of Contemporary Art. Ms. Evangelista joined the DCCA in June 2008 and will be responsible for the institution's program of contemporary art exhibitions.

Before joining the DCCA, Evangelista served as an Asian Cultural Fellow, as an independent curator and writer, and as a consultant and advisor for projects with MO Space and the Constancio Bernardo Foundation in the Philippines. From 1994 to 2000, she worked in the curatorial and education departments at the Museum of Modern Art in New York where she provided principal research and curatorial support for *Modern Art despite Modernism* and *The Raw and the Cooked*, exhibitions organized by then-Senior Curator, Robert Storr. She also assisted Mr. Storr in the organization of exhibitions that include *Chuck Close*, *Tony Smith*, *Franz West*, *Bruce Nauman*, and *Crosscurrents*. During her tenure at MoMA, Evangelista served as Projects Committee Assistant and as a core-group member of the multidisciplinary committee selected to research and organize twenty-four museum-wide exhibitions under *MoMA2000: Making Choices*.

Carina Evangelista also comes to the DCCA with an extensive background in art writing on contemporary art. She previously served as an evaluator and writer for the Silverlens Foundation as well as a curatorial researcher and writer for the Lopez Memorial Museum in Manila. Past selected writing/editorial projects include "The Sedimentation of the Mind: A Jaunt through the Jumbled Museum" for the University of the Philippines, "Intermediate Geography: Roberto Chabet" for *Finale Art File*, *On Collaboration* for the Queens Museum of Art, and *Japan: Rising* for the Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art. Evangelista contributes to various Philippine publications such as the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, *Metro*, *Muse*, and *Rogue*. In addition to her visual arts credentials, she has a background in theater and songwriting, and has written, translated, and narrated for Philippine documentary videos. She also played a role in *Philippine Science*, a full-length feature film that won the 2008 International Grand Jury Prize at the Vesoul Film Festival in France.

Maxine Gaiber, Executive Director of the DCCA, says of Ms. Evangelista's appointment, "Carina comes to us with a keen eye, a passion for the arts, and an

engaging manner that will allow her to quickly develop a local and regional following. She is very knowledgeable about the contemporary art scene and is eager to work with artists in the development of a compelling exhibition program.”

Carina Evangelista studied in the graduate program in Art History at the City College of New York with a concentration in contemporary art and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Humanities from the University of the Philippines.

The Gretchen Hupfel Endowment

The appointment of Carina Evangelista is part of an initiative established by the DCCA in 2008 after the receipt of a generous endowment gift, the first ever of its kind in the institution's 29-year history. Donated by an anonymous friend of deceased artist Gretchen Hupfel, the gift is used to finance an annual symposium and to underwrite the new curatorial position now held by Ms. Evangelista. In April 2008, the DCCA launched the Gretchen Hupfel Symposium as the inaugural celebratory event of the endowment gift. The symposium, titled *Interrogating Beauty*, featured nationally known art writers Eleanor Heartney and Dave Hickey as well as discussion panels by regional contemporary artists. The symposium will continue each year and serve as a hallmark of the DCCA as a relevant forum for new ideas.

The addition of Ms. Evangelista to the museum staff plays a pivotal role in the fulfillment of the DCCA’s obligation of the endowment gift. As an inspired and innovative thinker, she will create engaging exhibitions at the DCCA and propel excellence in the museum’s educational and artistic offerings.

Jay Miller, board president of the DCCA says of the endowment, “The Gretchen Hupfel Endowment gift indicates to the community that the DCCA is perceived to be a mature and vital organization that is ready to move forward toward the next level of achievement in engaging the public in a dialogue about contemporary art.”

The symposium and endowed curatorship is named after Gretchen Hupfel -- a conceptually oriented artist who worked in many different disciplines and recognized that contemporary artistic expression emanates from all cultures. In 2005, the DCCA mounted the exhibition *Gretchen Hupfel: Time Spent*, a posthumous retrospective that honored Ms. Hupfel, who passed away in 2002 at the age of thirty-nine. For those who remember her, this named endowment furthers the legacy of a passionate and remarkably talented artist and will not only commemorate her death, but celebrate her life.

The lead gift of \$500,000 is to be matched by gifts from the community totaling \$1,000,000. Matching gifts may be sent to the DCCA at 200 S. Madison St. Wilmington, DE 19801.

This major gift will ultimately help shape the role of the DCCA as a leading institution in contemporary art.

About the DCCA

The DCCA, a non-collecting art museum founded in 1979, organizes more than 30 exhibitions annually, featuring regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized artists who explore topical issues in contemporary art and society. The

DCCA offers a variety of education and outreach programs such as symposia, lectures, and tours. The DCCA facility also contains 27 individual studios for working artists, who exhibit regularly within its galleries and throughout the region.

DCCA gallery hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and noon-5 p.m. Wednesdays and Sundays. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and senior citizens (age 65 and up). Children under 12 are admitted free of charge. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Wednesdays and free until 1 p.m. on Saturdays. The DCCA is wheelchair-accessible; visitors with special needs are urged to call in advance. DCCA exhibitions and programs are made possible, in part, through individual contributions, members' support, and major grants from Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts.



