

THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

Melissa Rachleff Burttt Joins the Foundation's Board

May 16, 2022, New York City— The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Melissa Rachleff Burttt to the Board of Trustees. She has served on the Foundation's Advisory Council since 2016.

"It is such a great honor to join the board of the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation," said **Melissa Rachleff Burttt**. "I am a longtime admirer of and frequent visitor to the Foundation. It is such a tremendous resource for American and African art scholars, students, and the museum community. I look forward to collaborating with the wonderful leadership at the Foundation on the board, advisory board, and dedicated staff on making all the stories at the Foundation accessible to all."

"It is an honor and a pleasure to welcome Melissa Rachleff Burttt to our Board at the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation," said **Mimi Gross, President of the Foundation**. "Melissa's spirit, brilliance, and originality will be a great contribution to our embrace of the art world and the historic home and studio communities."

Melissa Rachleff Burttt is a Clinical Professor in the Visual Arts Administration Program at NYU: Steinhardt, where she concentrates on the nonprofit sector. In 2017 she curated *Inventing Downtown: Artist-Run Galleries in New York City, 1952-1965* for NYU Grey Art Gallery and wrote/edited the accompanying book, which is co-published by the Grey and Prestel Publishing. She began her career as the assistant curator at Exit Art and co-curated exhibitions on the intersection of visual art and documentation. She also worked on exhibits about under-examined artists at mid-career. As a program officer for the New York State Council on the Arts from 1999-2007, Rachleff Burttt was an advocate in supporting contemporary art projects done in collaboration with local communities. She has written about artist organizations for a variety of publications, and her essay, "Do It Yourself: A History of Alternatives" was published in *Alternative Histories: New York Art Spaces* (MIT Press) in 2012. Rachleff Burttt curated *Narrative & Counternarrative: (Re)Defining the Sixties* for NYU's Bobst Library in 2018, based on the school's three main archive collections: Fales Library & Archive, Tamiment Library, and the University's archive.

About Chaim Gross

Chaim Gross (1902-91) was an American sculptor whose prolific career spanned seven decades. He is known primarily for his direct carvings in wood as well as his bronzes, often of families or acrobats. His work is in public and private collections throughout the United States, with a significant portion at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. A philanthropist as well as a collector, Gross donated hundreds of objects to museums around the world. He collected broadly, with a focus on the work of his American contemporaries and African arts.

About the Foundation

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1989. The Foundation's mission is to further the legacy of Chaim Gross through high-quality research, exhibitions, and educational activities around the historic building and art collections for audiences in New York City and beyond. For more information, please visit the Foundation's website at www.rcgrossfoundation.org.

*For more information about the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation,
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