



Contact: Katrina Carl  
805.884.6430  
kcarl@sbma.net

***SBMA Announces Appointment of New Director***  
Larry J. Feinberg to Lead Santa Barbara Museum of Art

December 4, 2007 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Larry J. Feinberg as the new Director. Mr. Feinberg comes to Santa Barbara from the Art Institute of Chicago, with the anticipation he will officially begin in his new position on March 1, 2008.

"We are delighted that Mr. Feinberg has agreed to take this position," states Marshall Milligan, SBMA Board Chair. "He is a renowned scholar and curator who has also demonstrated a deep personal commitment to community outreach and education. Larry is the perfect person to build on the existing strengths of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art."

"This is a very exciting moment in the history of the Museum," says Mr. Feinberg. "I can see that the Trustees and staff are determined to elevate the organization's status from that of an excellent regional art museum to that of West Coast, and even national, prominence. I feel very honored to have been asked to join them in this enterprise, and given the considerable talents that already exist within SBMA, I am convinced that this goal can be achieved."

Mr. Feinberg brings with him more than twenty years of curatorial experience in major museums, including the Allen Art Museum of Oberlin College, The Frick Collection, the National Gallery of Art, and, since 1997, the Art Institute of Chicago where he was the Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Curator in the Department of Medieval through Modern European Painting, and Modern European Sculpture.

While his scholarly expertise points especially toward Italian Renaissance art, as well as 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century French art, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century French and Belgian paintings, he has been involved with and chaired a number of cultural organizations throughout Chicago, particularly those that promote visual-arts education. Most recently, he served as Chairman of the Board of Art Resources in Teaching, a non-profit, visual-arts literacy organization. Last year, A.R.T. presented more than 300 programs that served more than 40,000 children in the public elementary schools – schools from which virtually all art instruction had been eliminated some years ago due to government funding reductions.

His professional commitment to improvement of education and the arts, especially in the public schools, and on the plight of children in other parts of the world follows him to Santa Barbara. Mr. Feinberg states, "I have been especially impressed with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's very long-standing commitment to visual arts education for children."

John Bishop, SBMA Trustee and Co-Chair of the Search Committee, adds, "Mr. Feinberg has the highest aspirations for our participation in art scholarship, and he expects to be personally involved in building even more collaborative efforts with schools and other local organizations. We are confident that the Museum will continue to be one of Santa Barbara's proudest possessions."

Additionally, between 1993 and 2005 and again in 2006-2007, Mr. Feinberg directed the Old Masters Society (OMS), the principal support organization for the European Painting department of the Art Institute of Chicago. Over that time, the OMS evolved from a group that sponsored a few lectures each year to one of the museum's most dynamic, fund-raising, affiliate organizations. Membership grew from 250 to 600 people, and now includes many of the most prominent individuals and corporate leaders in the community.

He and his wife, Starr Siegele, also an art museum curator, both served on the Capital Campaign Committee of Muntu Dance Theatre, one of the country's leading troupes that performs and teaches the dances of Africa and the African diaspora. In addition, nearly two years ago, Mr. Feinberg took a six-month sabbatical to assist United Nations Under-Secretary-General Olara Otunnu in his mission to end the use of children as soldiers, sexual slaves, and in other horrific ways in conflict situations. He took over much of the operational and financial management of the office to free U-S-G Otunnu to engage in speaking engagements and diplomatic meetings.

Noteworthy exhibitions that Mr. Feinberg has organized or coordinated include ***Girokt Romantic Rebel***, a major loan exhibition with the Louvre, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Montreal Museum of Fine Art; ***The Medici Michelangelo and the Art of Late Renaissance Florence***, a major loan exhibition with Florence, Chicago, and Detroit (featured in ***Time Magazine***); ***Gustave Moreau: Between Epic and Dream***, a major loan exhibition co-organized with the Grand Palais, Art Institute of Chicago, and Metropolitan Museum of Art and named by ***Art News*** as one of the Museum Exhibitions of the Year. Additionally, Mr. Feinberg has published numerous works, including recent articles on Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, and has written (forthcoming) studies on the young Leonardo and on prehistoric cave art.

Mr. Feinberg holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from Harvard University, an M.B.A. from the Executive Masters Program at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, and a B.A. with distinction and Phi Beta Kappa honors from Northwestern University.