

Institute of Contemporary University Art of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE



Jenny Laden, ICA Director of Development.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA NAMES JENNY LADEN AS NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

August 18, 2022

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce the appointment of Jenny Laden as ICA's new Director of Development. Laden leaves the role of Senior Associate Director for Communications and Stewardship at Penn's Stuart Weitzman School of Design, a position she has had for over five years. Laden will join ICA on August 29, 2022.

During her tenure at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design she created print, digital and video collateral for the *Lead By Design* campaign's communications and major events, raising significant support for the School. She formed an innovative stewardship program for donors, providing information on the impact of their giving and also led the design and execution of the Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) website for the Weitzman School. She worked closely with Central DAR on the renaming of the School, and all events for Weitzman Day and the celebration of Weitzman Plaza. Most recently her work in strategy and communications has been integral to the new Stuart Weitzman Hall project.

As ICA's Director of Development, Laden will work collaboratively alongside Zoë Ryan, ICA's Daniel W. Dietrich, II Director, its Board of Advisors, and DAR to plan, execute, and strategize philanthropic goals for the institution.

"Jenny is a proven leader whose ability to identify funding opportunities that respond to changes and trends in art and design philanthropy demonstrate both impressive fundraising skills and a natural gift for relationship-building," said Ryan. "Jenny's broad experience in philanthropic fundraising and at Penn will be a strong asset to ICA, building on the strength of our past and profoundly impacting future growth. I am excited by the new energy and vision she will bring to ICA's leadership team."

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ICA is always FREE. FOR ALL.

Free admission is courtesy of
Amanda and Glenn Fuhrman.

"I am thrilled to participate in this next chapter of ICA's illustrious history. I've spent my career building and sustaining arts organizations devoted to social progress and accessibility, so I am drawn to ICA's deeply rooted values of inclusion and equity and its longstanding curatorial excellence," said Laden. "I look forward to supporting Zoe's vision to build upon that legacy of excellence while expanding the institution's programming and engagement across campus and the wider community. It's an exciting time for art at Penn, in Philadelphia and for ICA and I couldn't be more honored to join the team."

About Jenny Laden

Jenny Laden has previously worked for multiple nonprofits devoted to art and social progress: White Columns, C.O.L.A.G.E. (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere), ArtsConnection, InLiquid, The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Pig Iron Theatre Company and Art-Reach. Her work at these organizations received grant funding from The National Endowment for the Arts, the Knight Foundation, The Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, the William Penn Foundation, and Impact100, among others.

Laden is also a practicing artist and writer. Jenny holds a B.A. from Barnard College in Art History with a concentration in Studio Art, and a Master's Degree in Fine Art from New York University. Her work has been exhibited in galleries in New York, Chicago, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Berlin and Philadelphia and reviewed in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, and *ArtForum*. She has written and illustrated a young adult novel titled *This Terrible True Thing*, focused on the AIDS crisis in the early 1990s, to be published by Blackstone Publishing in 2023.

She is a founding board member of Groundswell, a NYC-based organization that brings together youth, artists, and community organizations to use art as a tool for social change for a more just and equitable world. She is currently on the Advisory Board for Lightning Rod Special, a Philadelphia-based theater company examining contemporary social issues, and has served on the Visual Art panel for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Philadelphia Percent for Art jury.

About the Institute of Contemporary Art | University of Pennsylvania

The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania is a non-collecting institution presenting interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs at the forefront of contemporary practice. Through its exhibitions, commissions, special projects, publications and programs, the ICA serves as a laboratory for new artistic and curatorial practices, supporting the production of urgent work and providing a critical platform for an exchange of ideas on art and society. Since its founding in 1963, the ICA has shared the University's commitment to experimental research and belief in supporting the next generation of imaginative and creative thinkers. ICA is dedicated to advancing new directions in artistic practices, creating meaningful connections for the public with art and artists, and advocating for artists, research, and dialogues that contextualize and resonate with the socio-political conditions of our time.