



Smithsonian Institution
***National Museum of African American
History and Culture***

Kinshasha Holman Conwill, Deputy Director

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Kinshasha Holman Conwill is Deputy Director of the National Museum of African American History & Culture, Smithsonian Institution. Prior to joining the Museum she was an arts, museum, and management consultant where her projects included acting as Senior Policy Advisor for the Museums & Community Initiative of the American Association of Museums, project director for the New York City Creative Communities program of LINC (Leveraging Investments in Creativity), project director and managing editor for ***Culture Counts: Strategies for a More Vibrant Cultural Life for New York City*** (New York Foundation for the Arts), and project manager for ***Creative Downtown: The Role of Culture in Rebuilding Lower Manhattan*** (New York City Arts Coalition).

She was Director of The Studio Museum in Harlem from 1988 to 1999; she joined the Museum in 1980 as Deputy Director. At the Studio Museum, she conceptualized, organized, or co-organized more than 40 major exhibitions, many of which traveled nationally, including ***Memory and Metaphor: The Art of Romare Bearden, 1940-1987; Contemporary African Artists: Changing Tradition; The Decade Show: Frameworks of Identity in the 1980s; Explorations in the City of Light: African-American Artists in Paris, 1945-1965; Wifredo Lam and His Contemporaries, 1938-1952; Norman Lewis: Black Paintings, 1946-1977; To Conserve a Legacy: American Art From Historically Black Colleges and Universities; and Passages: Contemporary Art in Transition***, and an award-winning contemporary African art exhibition at the 1990 Venice Biennale.

She is a member of the boards of Provisions Library and the Municipal Art Society of New York. She previously served as Assistant Exhibit Coordinator for the Museum of the American Indian in New York City and Coordinator of Activities for the Frank Lloyd Wright Hollyhock House, and also taught art in the Los Angeles Unified School District. From 1970 to 1980, she was a practicing visual and performance artist.

She writes on art, museums, and cultural policy and is a frequent lecturer and panelist at colleges, universities, conferences, and museums. She has served as an advisor for the Harvard University Program for Art Museum Directors and on the faculties of the Virginia Management Institute for Senior Museum Professionals and the Salzburg Seminars and has been a presenter in major international art conferences and meetings, in Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Senegal, and Italy, and as a juror for numerous public art

projects and exhibitions. She is a past Chairman of the National Museum Services Board, former President of ArtTable, and has served as a member of the Accreditation Commission of the American Association of Museums, as a board member of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, New Visions for Public Schools, the Urban Assembly, the Association of Art Museum Directors, as a member of the Smithsonian Council, a member of the Board of Overseers of Cal Arts, and as a panelist for the NEA, the NEH, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the New York State Council on the Arts, and The California Arts Council; on advisory and grant committees for the American Academy in Rome (for the Prix de Rome), the Ford Foundation, the Fleishhacker Foundation, the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Rockefeller Foundation; and as a member of the Professional Advisory Committee for Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE).

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, she attended Mount Holyoke College as a National Achievement Scholar, graduated *magna cum laude* from Howard University with a B.F.A., and received an M.B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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