

VILCEK FOUNDATION

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Guild Hall Museum Director Joins Vilcek Foundation Board

Christina Strassfield named newest director of the Vilcek Foundation

New York, NY, December 2, 2013 — The Vilcek Foundation is pleased to announce Christina Mossaides Strassfield as the newest member of the Vilcek Foundation board of directors. Ms. Strassfield, currently the museum director/chief curator of the Guild Hall Museum in East Hampton, NY, has over twenty years of experience in curatorial work, program building, and museum administration.

“During her tenure at the Guild Hall Museum, Christina has shown tremendous ingenuity in raising its national profile, while staying committed to its mission of creating programs relevant to the local artists and community,” said Marica Vilcek, vice president of the Vilcek Foundation. “We are thrilled to welcome her to the board.”

As museum director and chief curator, Ms. Strassfield oversees the museum’s annual calendar, which includes approximately eight to twelve exhibitions and public programs a year. Ms. Strassfield has curated exhibitions around the works of world-renowned artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Chuck Close, and Barbara Kruger, as well as exhibitions championing lesser-known and under-recognized artists of Long Island. She also leads other aspects of museum administration at Guild Hall, including acquisitions, fundraising, marketing, and academic research. In 2010, Ms. Strassfield became an adjunct professor at Dowling College, where she was instrumental in establishing the Museum Studies curricula.

Ms. Strassfield will be replacing director Peter Ludwig, who will be stepping down from the Vilcek Foundation board after years of service; he will retain an honorary, nonvoting title of counsel to the board.

The Vilcek Foundation was established in 2000 by Jan and Marica Vilcek, immigrants from the former Czechoslovakia. The mission of the Foundation, to honor the contributions of foreign-born scholars and artists living in the United States, was inspired by the couple’s careers in biomedical science and art history, respectively, as well as their personal experiences and appreciation for the opportunities they received as newcomers to this country. The Foundation hosts events to promote the work of immigrants, awards annual prizes to prominent immigrant biomedical scientists and artists, and sponsors cultural programs such as the Hawaii International Film Festival.

To learn more about The Vilcek Foundation, please visit Vilcek.org.