

# THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



## PRESS RELEASE

### Dr. Susan Fisher joins Foundation's Board of Directors

**August 17, 2018, New York City**—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Susan Fisher to the Board of Directors. Dr. Fisher is the Acting Chief Curator and Director of Collections at the Brooklyn Museum, and served as the Foundation's Executive Director and Chief Curator from 2009 to 2017.

President Mimi Gross shared these words about Dr. Fisher:

“Once established at the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation, Susan Fisher found a home for her many talents. Her previous experiences had been as a teacher and curator at the Yale University Art Gallery under the inspiration of her mentor, the Director Jock Reynolds. Susan brought with her an understanding and appreciation for the integrity and other qualities of art works, whether by a well-known artist or an anonymous African carver.

I first met Susan when she was an undergraduate Art History major at Oberlin College and was the roommate of my daughter Saskia Grooms. She visited my parents' home and was familiar with the collection and my father's work long before she worked there.

The Foundation was waiting for serious leadership. She undertook the responsibilities, "house cleaning": insurances and basic maintenance, creating a budget and keeping it under control. She found interns and a strong assistant with Sasha Davis (now Executive Director), formed an Advisory Board selected from various disciplines and foundations, and helped found the SoHo Arts Network of fellow nonprofit arts venues.

Susan curated special temporary exhibitions which brought the art world and the community to visit and become aware of the scope of Chaim's work and collections. She organized a variety of significant events, poetry readings, book launches, and lectures. Above all, she brought the Foundation into a major part of the Greenwich Village and Soho communities.

A serious worker, a shining light, a loyal and close friend, charming and intelligent, Susan has given us a gift for the sustainability of our modest Foundation.”

After leaving her position at the Foundation, Dr. Fisher joined the Brooklyn Museum as Director of Collections in 2017. She had previously served as the inaugural Horace W. Goldsmith Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Yale University Art Gallery and on the curatorial staff at the Guggenheim Museum. She has organized more than 20 exhibitions on nineteenth- and twentieth-century art, including *Picasso and the Allure of Language* and, as assistant curator to Jennifer Gross, *The Société Anonyme: Modernism for America*, both of which won awards from the Association of Art Museum Curators and the International Association of Art Critics. She has taught modern art history and museum studies at Fairfield University and Yale University and holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in art history from Yale University and a B.A. from Oberlin College. In 2016 she was a Fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership in New York City.

#### **About Chaim Gross**

Chaim Gross (1904-91) was an American sculptor whose prolific career spanned seven decades. He is known primarily for his direct carvings in wood and his soaring bronzes, often of families or acrobats. His work is in collections throughout the United States, with a significant portion at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. A great philanthropist as well as a great 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 art.

#### **About the Foundation**

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1988. 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](http://www.rcgrossfoundation.org).

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