

TEIGER FOUNDATION GIFTS \$1 MILLION TO SUPPORT MoMA PS1 CURATORIAL VISION

*The gift honors the legacy of late MoMA PS1 Board member and collector  
David Teiger on the 10th anniversary of his passing*



MoMA PS1 Curatorial Team. From left: Ruba Katrib, Elena Ketelsen González, Jody Graf, Sheldon Gooch, Kari Rittenbach.  
Photo: Marissa Alper

**New York, NY, December 10, 2024** – [Teiger Foundation](#) announces a \$1 million gift to MoMA PS1 for the creation of the **Teiger Foundation Exhibition Fund**, which directly supports the MoMA PS1 curatorial team by providing funding for their exhibitions—including upcoming solo presentations by **Julien Ceccaldi**, **Whitney Clafin**, and **Sandra Poulson**. The gift is a testament to MoMA PS1’s curatorial vision and Teiger Foundation’s commitment to supporting curatorial excellence, while also celebrating the legacy of the late Foundation’s founder and MoMA PS1 board member David Teiger on the tenth anniversary of his passing. In the lead-up to PS1’s affiliation with MoMA in 2000, David Teiger was the first trustee MoMA nominated for the newly formed MoMA PS1 board.

“Throughout its history, MoMA PS1 has been an incubator for curators working on all platforms, offering an integrated curatorial approach that spans our galleries, the stage, and the city,” said **Connie Butler, The Agnes Gund Director, MoMA PS1**. “Our curators are pushing forward this important ethos through experimental, international programming. I am so grateful that David’s generosity, through the legacy of the Foundation, will help make the ambitious visions of our curatorial team possible and have a strong impact on the artists in our community.”

“Exhibition funds support long-term planning, allowing curators to develop ideas over time. Work with artists can start earlier and be more collaborative, facilitating experimentation over many months or years,” said **Ruba Katrib, Chief Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, MoMA PS1**. “We are thrilled that the Teiger Foundation Exhibition Fund will enable MoMA PS1 to support artists, pursue urgent ideas, and grow as a team.”

Teiger Foundation is a private foundation devoted to supporting contemporary art curators through an [open call for proposals](#) and other funding initiatives. It honors the spirit of its late founder—collector and art patron **David Teiger (1929–2014)**—who acted as an advocate for contemporary curators pursuing ambitious, innovative, and unconventional projects. David Teiger joined the board of MoMA PS1 in 2000, the same year he helped fund the inaugural *Greater New York* quinquennial. He gave generously to a wide range of exhibitions at MoMA PS1 until his passing, reflecting his investment in curatorial projects and the priorities of a nimble, experimental institution.

“PS1 opened an avenue for David Teiger to get involved as a board member at a smaller visual art organization, and to grow from an art collector into a patron of emerging artists,” said **Larissa Harris, Executive Director, Teiger Foundation**. “For David Teiger, PS1 was a springboard from buying art into supporting—and becoming deeply involved in the practice of—exhibitions and exhibition-making. On this tenth anniversary of David Teiger’s death, it’s a perfect time to remember the foundational role PS1 played in his commitment to contemporary art and artists.”

“David’s nomination by MoMA to the newly formed MoMA PS1 board was an experiment,” recalled **Alanna Heiss, Founder and Director of MoMA PS1** from 1976 to 2010. “Both of us were apprehensive but we soon fell madly in love. His passion for contemporary art had just been ignited. I re-saw artists through his eyes, and he saw possible exhibitions of artists through my eyes. He was loved and feared by artists for his intelligence, his understanding, and his belief that each artwork should be made with an even greater passion than he had for it. David was most comfortable in the company of artists and curators. On this 10th anniversary of his death, I believe he would be happy to know that, with the support of Teiger Foundation, curatorial teams at PS1 will continue to creatively instigate the controlled madness we call making exhibitions.”

MoMA PS1 has a remarkable and rich history as an artist-centric institution, now under the visionary leadership of curator, author, and art historian Connie Butler, formerly the Chief Curator at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. The first use of the new fund will support the work of three curators—**Jody Graf, Elena Ketelsen González, and Kari Rittenbach**—and their exhibitions at MoMA PS1 in 2025, including:

### **Spring 2025 Exhibitions**

Whitney Clafin (Organized by Jody Graf) March 27–August 25, 2025

Julien Ceccaldi (Organized by Kari Rittenbach) March 27–August 25, 2025

Sandra Poulson (Organized by Elena Ketelsen González) April 24–October 6, 2025

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## **ABOUT TEIGER FOUNDATION**

Teiger Foundation advances innovative curatorial practice in contemporary art. Through its grantmaking initiatives, Teiger Foundation aims to catalyze positive change within the field through its support of curatorial projects that further new research, broaden opportunities for diversity and inclusion, and embrace more sustainable practices. Established by collector and art patron David Teiger (1929–2014) in 2008, the Foundation honors the spirit of its late founder who acted as an advocate for contemporary curators pursuing ambitious, innovative, and unconventional projects. The Foundation moved into a new phase of activity following the posthumous sale of Teiger’s collection in 2018–19. Between 2020 and 2022, the Foundation distributed a total of \$8 million, supporting artistic leadership and curators at nonprofit institutions; curator-led coalitions and initiatives that support and challenge the field of visual art; as well as COVID relief efforts that helped artists and cultural workers in need. 2023 brought the Foundation’s first Call for Proposals and climate action pilot, both of which have now become central programs of the Foundation’s grant-giving and support efforts.

## **ABOUT MoMA PS1**

MoMA PS1 champions art and artists at the intersection of the social, cultural, and political issues of our time. Providing audiences with the agency to ask questions, access to knowledge, and a forum for public debate, PS1 has offered insight into artists’ diverse worldviews for more than 40 years. Founded in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, the institution was a defining force in the alternative space movement in New York City, transforming a nineteenth century public schoolhouse in Long Island City into a site for artistic experimentation and creativity. PS1 has been a member of New York City’s Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) since 1982 and affiliated with The Museum of Modern Art since 2000.

## **ABOUT THE MoMA PS1 CURATORIAL TEAM**

**Connie Butler** is the Agnes Gund Director of MoMA PS1 in New York. Prior to her arrival in fall 2023, she was Chief Curator at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, where she organized numerous exhibitions including the biennial of Los Angeles artists *Made in LA* (2014); *Mark Bradford: Scorched Earth* (2015); *Marisa Merz: The Sky Is a Great Space* (2017); *Lari Pittman: Declaration of Independence* (2019); and *Witch Hunt* (2021). She also co-organized, with MoMA, *Adrian Piper: A Synthesis of Intuitions*, which opened at the Hammer in October 2018. From 2006 to 2013, she was the Robert Lehman Foundation Chief Curator of Drawings at The Museum of Modern Art, New York where she co-curated the first major Lygia Clark retrospective in the United States (2014) and *On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century* (2010) in addition to *Greater New York* (2010) and *Mike Kelley* (2013) at MoMA PS1. Butler also organized the groundbreaking survey *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution* (2007) at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, where she was curator from 1996 to 2006. In 2020 Butler received the Bard College Audrey Irmas Award for Curatorial Excellence.

**Ruba Katrib** is Chief Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs at MoMA PS1 in New York, where she steers the museum's program and is a member of the leadership team. At PS1 she has curated exhibitions such as *Sohrab Hura: Mother* (2024), *Rirkrit Tiravanija: A LOT OF PEOPLE* (with Yasmil Raymond, 2023), *Jumana Manna: Break, Take, Erase, Tally* (2022), *Frieda Toranzo Jaeger: Autonomous Drive* (2022), *Greater New York* (2021), *Niki de Saint Phalle: Structures for Life* (2021), Simone Fattal's retrospective in 2019, and solo shows by Edgar Heap of Birds (2019), Karrabing Collective (2019), Fernando Palma Rodríguez, and Julia Phillips (2018). From 2012–2018 she was the Curator at SculptureCenter in New York, where she organized over twenty exhibitions including *74 million million million tons* (2018, co-organized with artist Lawrence Abu Hamdan) and solo shows by Carissa Rodriguez, Kelly Akashi, Sam Anderson, Teresa Burga, Nicola L., Charlotte Prodger, Rochelle Goldberg, Aki Sasamoto, Cosima von Bonin, Anthea Hamilton, Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, Magali Reus, Gabriel Sierra, Erika Verzutti, and David Douard. In 2018, Katrib co-curated SITE Santa Fe's biennial, *Casa Tomada*, along with José Luis Blondet and Candice Hopkins. She is an advisory board member of CCA Berlin and a board member of Topical Cream, and regularly writes for periodicals and museum catalogues.

**Jody Graf** is an Assistant Curator at MoMA PS1, where she recently organized the exhibitions *Jasmine Gregory: Who Wants to Die for Glamour* (2024), *Hard Ground* (2024), *Yto Barrada: Le Grand Soir* (with Ruba Katrib, 2024), *Iliu Susiraja: A style called a dead fish* (2023), and *Life Between Buildings* (2022). She has been part of the curatorial team for projects including *Rirkrit Tiravanija: A LOT OF PEOPLE* (2023); *Greater New York 2021*; *Niki de Saint Phalle: Structures for Life* (2021); *Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration* (2020); *Theater of Operations: The Gulf Wars 1991-2011* (2019); and *Sue Coe: Graphic Resistance* (2018), among others. Graf is the recipient of the 2024 Cisneros Institute Curatorial Fellowship, and has lectured at institutions including the MFA Houston, Princeton School of Architecture, RISD, the Goethe Institute New York, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. She has edited multiple exhibition catalogues at MoMA PS1, and her writing has been featured in publications including *Texte Zur Kunst*, *Frieze*, *Mousse*, *CURA*, and *MAY*.

**Elena Ketelsen González** is an Assistant Curator at MoMA PS1, where she has conceptualized and organized Homeroom, a space that amplifies the work of collectives, organizations, and artists connected to PS1's program. Her curatorial collaborations and exhibitions at PS1 include a solo presentation of Regina José Galindo's *Tierra* (2024); *Leslie Martinez: The Fault of Formation* (2023–24); *Malikah* (2023) (with Rana Abdelhamid); and *Nuevayorkinos: Essential and Excluded* (2021–2022 (with Djali Brown-Cepeda). Ketelsen González has held programming and curatorial positions in New York at Gracie Mansion Conservancy, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of the City of New York, among others. She is also the founder of La Salita, a grassroots curatorial project dedicated to organizing programs and exhibitions with artists from across Latin America and the Caribbean. Her recent writing contributions include texts for the 60th Venice Biennale exhibition and catalogue, *Stranieri Ovunque/Foreigners Everywhere* (2024) (curated by Adriano Pedrosa), and contributions to the *Flow States—LA TRIENAL 2024* catalogue at El Museo del Barrio. Born in San José, Costa Rica, and raised between there and Southern California, she currently resides in Queens, New York.

**Kari Rittenbach** is an Assistant Curator at MoMA PS1, where she has organized the exhibitions *Reynaldo Rivera: Fistful of Love/También la belleza* (with Lauren Mackler, 2024), and *Onyeka Igwe: A Repertoire of Protest (No Dance, No Pavaler)* (2023), as well as commissions by Stewart Uoo, Raque Ford, Alex Tatarsky, and Poncili Creación. At PS1, she has curated the music series Warm Up and worked on the surveys *Ceremonies Out of the Air: Ralph Lemon* and *Rirkrit Tiravanija: A LOT OF PEOPLE* (2023). She previously organized numerous projects independently, including *You've Come a Long Way, Baby: The Sapphire Show*, Ortuzar Projects, New York (2021); *Silvia Kolbowski: That Monster, An Allegory*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (2019); *Coming Soon* (with Mira Asriningtyas and Nora Heidorn), Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2018); and *Trees in the Forest*, Yale Union, Portland, Oregon (2016). She is a visiting critic at the Yale School of Art.

**Sheldon Gooch** is Curatorial Assistant at MoMA PS1. Prior to PS1, he held curatorial roles at The Museum of Modern Art, Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Gooch has supported exhibitions of work by Pacita Abad, Alia Farid, Martine Gutierrez, Sohrab Hura, Gala Porras-Kim, and others. Their writing has appeared in exhibition catalogues from The Museum of Modern Art and Moderna Museet as well as *Studio* magazine.