

Release Date: October 19, 2007

## National Gallery of Art Names Harry Cooper as Head of Department of Modern Art



Harry Cooper in front of Kenneth Noland's *Karma* (1964) Harvard University Art Museums, Fogg Art Museum, Gift of Kenneth Noland  
Photo by Tony Rinaldo

Washington, DC –National Gallery of Art director Earl A. Powell III has announced the appointment of Harry Cooper as head of the department of modern and contemporary art. He replaces Jeffrey Weiss, who headed the department from 1999 until this spring when he became director of Dia Art Foundation in New York.

"Harry Cooper is a respected scholar and curator in his field and has organized many thought-provoking and popular exhibitions during his tenure at the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard," said Powell. "We look forward to working with him as we continue to expand the Gallery's collection of modern and contemporary art, and to maintain a robust exhibition schedule." Cooper is slated to begin his new post in February 2008.

Cooper, currently the curator and head of the department of modern art at the Harvard University Art Museums, has held various curatorial and academic positions at Harvard

since 1997. He organized more than one dozen traveling and in-house exhibitions as associate curator and later as curator of modern art, including *Frank Stella 1958* (2006), *Medardo Rosso: Second Impressions* (2003), *Mondrian: The Transatlantic Paintings* (2001), and *Ellsworth Kelly: The Early Drawings* (1999). Cooper has also lectured and taught in the department of the history of art and architecture on a wide variety of subjects, including abstract expressionism, Paul Cézanne, and Philip Guston.

A native of Bethesda, MD, Cooper began his career as a researcher at the *Wilson Quarterly* of the Smithsonian Institution and at the National Association of State Boards of Education, Alexandria, VA. From 1985 to 1990 he taught junior high school with a specialization in learning disabilities in the Washington, DC, area. Cooper worked as an exhibition specialist on the *Piet Mondrian* retrospective that was on view in 1994 at the National Gallery of Art. He was the editor for the *Piet Mondrian* catalogue raisonné, volume two, and has published many essays and articles, as well as book reviews and art criticism in his field. He has taught at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Columbia University, New York, and lectured widely.

Cooper received a Ph.D. in 1997 from Harvard University, an M.A. in 1992 from Johns Hopkins University, and an A.B. in American history and literature in 1981 from Harvard University. Cooper also holds a certificate in drawing and painting from the Corcoran Museum School of Art, Washington, DC.

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## General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit [www.nga.gov/renovation](http://www.nga.gov/renovation) (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) and on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/ngadc) at [twitter.com/ngadc](http://twitter.com/ngadc).

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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