

YALE UNION is led by a desire to support artists, propose new modes of production, and stimulate the ongoing public discourse around art. 800 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97214 [www.yaleunion.org](http://www.yaleunion.org)  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2018

## **Y**ale Union Welcomes Yoko Ott as Executive Director

**Portland, OR** — Yale Union is honored to welcome Yoko Ott as Executive Director. A curator and arts non-profit veteran well known to arts professionals in the Pacific Northwest, Ott has been Deputy Director of Yale Union since November 2017. Ott succeeds Curtis Knapp, Director and Co-Founder of Yale Union, who tendered his resignation to the board of directors on March 1.

Ott was the Founding Director of The New Foundation Seattle, Executive Director of the artist-in-residency project Open Satellite, and Manager of Youth and Community Outreach Programs at the Frye Art Museum. In addition to her administrative positions, Ott has continued to do curatorial work independently, most recently a Martha Rosler exhibition organized for Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York.

“We are all—board and staff—enthusiastic about working with Yoko. We thank Curtis for his vision in co-founding Yale Union and the ten years he gave to it. With Yoko’s appointment we are fortunate to have the experience of a seasoned arts professional guiding the institution moving forward. We are privileged that Yoko understands and is committed to our mission and its history and are looking forward to the future with her as our leader,” says Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder Aaron Flint Jamison.

At the same time the organization announces two new leadership appointments:

- Longtime Yale Union curator, Hope Svenson, is being promoted to the position of Director of Exhibitions. Svenson will oversee Yale Union’s exhibition program and, together with Ott, oversee the in-progress international search for a new curator to join the team. Svenson is curating a solo exhibition with Turner Prize–nominated artist Cathy Wilkes that will open in July of 2018.
- Jennifer Martin returns to Yale Union and has been named Interim Director of Operations. She will manage Yale Union’s day-to-day operations while supporting Ott in business and fundraising strategies.

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Today's announcement marks a transformational moment in the organization's history. This occasion is celebrated by Yale Union kicking off its 2018 programming season with a solo exhibition of work by Belgian artist Jef Geys (1934–2018), curated by Nic Tammens and opening April 14. Music curator Mark Lewis presents performances by Elysia Crampton on March 10, and PheW on March 16. Separate program announcements will follow.

### **About Yoko Ott**

Ott has acted as Deputy Director of Yale Union in Portland, Oregon (since 2017), Project Manager and Operations Director of Honolulu Biennial Foundation (2016–2018), Founding Director of The New Foundation Seattle (2011–2016), Executive Director of the artist-in-residency project Open Satellite (2009–2011), and Manager of Youth and Community Outreach Programs at the Frye Art Museum (2006–2008). She has done independent curatorial work at the Hedreen Gallery at Seattle University (2008–2010) and Bumbershoot: Seattle Art and Music Festival's visual art program (2001–2006). Yoko grew up in Wai'anae on O'ahu, Hawai'i's leeward coast.

### **Yale Union Team**

Andrea Glaser, Volunteer Coordinator | Mark Lewis, Music Curator | Marian Rose Lucas, Bookkeeper | Alex Mahan, Web Developer | Jennifer Martin, Interim Director of Operations | Yoko Ott, Executive Director | Scott Ponik, Archivist | Morgan Ritter, Program & Communications Manager | Gary Robbins, Print Production Manager | Hope Svenson, Director of Exhibitions | Jeff Witscher, Facilities Manager