

January 2004

UAlbany Names New Museum Director

ALBANY, N.Y. (January 29, 2004) — The University at Albany has named Janet Riker as director of the University Art Museum. Riker leaves the Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn, where she has been director since 1989. The Rotunda Gallery is dedicated to the exhibition of contemporary art, architecture and design by Brooklyn artists. Prior to assuming the Rotunda post, she was director of the Art Gallery at Queensborough Community College, CUNY, assistant curator at the Drawing Center in Manhattan and administrator of the Carpenter + Hochman Gallery/Delahanty Gallery of New York and Dallas.

Janet brings solid experience and a proven track record in museum operations, exhibitions, public programming, fund-raising, and community outreach," said University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Carlos Santiago. "We are delighted to welcome her to the University at Albany, and look forward to working with her to ensure that the Museum remains an essential centerpiece of the University and community."

I'm thrilled to have been appointed director of the University Museum at the University at Albany. I look forward to working with the Museum staff and the many members of the University and Albany community, who are committed to enhancing the Museum's position as a vibrant center of the visual arts and a place for active learning and intellectual engagement, said Riker.

In addition to her director's responsibilities at the Rotunda, Riker has curated numerous exhibitions, including *Animas!*, which explored animation in the performing and visual arts through puppets, sculpture and installations; and, most recently, *To Scale*, an investigation of size and scale in contemporary painting, sculpture and photography featuring the work of, among others, Ming Fay, Allesandra Esposito and Andy Yoder.

Riker earned a master's degree in Art History from Columbia University and has served on many advisory committees and selection panels of agencies including the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The appointment, which follows a national search, will commence April 1, 2004.

The University at Albany's broad mission of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service engages 17,000 diverse students in nine degree-granting schools and colleges. The University has launched a \$500 million fundraising campaign, the most ambitious in its history, with the goal of placing it among the nation's top 30 public research universities by the end of

the decade. For more information about this internationally ranked institution, visit www.albany.edu .
For UAAlbany's extensive roster of faculty experts, visit www.albany.edu/news/experts.htm