

The Chicago Architecture Biennial Announces Executive Director Jennifer Armetta



The Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) is thrilled to announce **Jennifer Armetta** as its new Executive Director.

Over the past thirty years Armetta has been dedicated to supporting artists and expanding public access and communal engagement with their work. She founded her first gallery in Chicago in 1996, Jennifer Armetta Fine Art, with the goal of educating collectors and advocating for artists and helping to support their careers. Upon moving to Los Angeles in 2000, Armetta continued her work as an art advisor, educating clients on how to build meaningful collections through supporting emerging and mid-career artists. In 2004, after returning to Chicago, Armetta served as one of the founding members of the MCA Chicago's acquisition board, Emerge, which is dedicated to bringing emerging artists into the museum's permanent collection.

In 2020 she took on the role of Owner and Director of Aspect/Ratio Projects in Chicago, where she oversaw the evolution of its programming to include emerging and mid-career, interdisciplinary artists focused on painting, photography and sculpture. In fall of 2021 Aspect/Ratio Projects changed its name to ENGAGE Projects, highlighting Jennifer's personal mission of engaging with artists, communities and patrons in order to make art and its community more accessible to everyone.

Though she has maintained a constant presence in the arts community, Armetta has also held a number of corporate positions as well, including a role as Director of Corporate Partnerships at Integrated Marketing International, a marketing firm focused on large scale events and civic endeavors throughout Chicago, as well as with House of Blues, Inc. and Disney.

Armetta maintains deep and long-standing ties to the civic, fine arts and business communities in Chicago. She has held a seat on a number of boards and executive committees, including Emerge at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Founders Board at Lurie Children's Hospital, Chicago; the Chicago Artists Coalition; The Chicago History Museum Costume Council and Artists in Public Schools.

"The Biennial looks forward to Jennifer Armetta's contribution," said Jack Guthman, Chair of the CAB Board of Directors. "We are fortunate to have the benefit of a person who has her wide range of experiences and accomplishments."

As the Executive Director of CAB, Armetta will leverage her extensive and wide-ranging experience working in both the fine arts and corporate sectors as she spearheads fundraising and programming initiatives along with securing new corporate and public sponsorships. Each facet of her role will remain oriented towards both solidifying CAB's international presence and expanding its impact on and contribution to the city of Chicago.

"The Chicago Architecture Biennial is one of the most important and vital organizations contributing to the culture, community, health and vitality of our wonderful city," said Armetta. "We're looking forward to highlighting the incredible architecture that exists across the city, showcasing exceptional global talent and bringing communities together around the arts."

About Jennifer Armetta

Jennifer Armetta has been dedicated to supporting and advocating for artists for over 30 years. She founded her first gallery in Chicago, Jennifer Armetta Fine Art in 1996, with the goal of providing a space for educating collectors and advocating for artists. During this time she was also the Director of Corporate Partnerships at Integrated Marketing International, a marketing firm focused on large scale events and civic endeavors throughout Chicago. Upon moving to Los Angeles in 2000, Jennifer continued her work as both an art advisor and in the corporate arena, including co-founding a company focused on careers in the arts and entertainment industries.

In 2004, Jennifer became a founding member of the MCA Chicago's acquisition committee, Emerge. Emerge is dedicated to bringing emerging artists into the museum's permanent collection. As programming chair on the Executive Committee of Emerge, Jennifer worked to bring opportunities to both artists and collectors that encouraged engagement and sparked curiosity in the arts. Through her experience in large entertainment based corporations, Jennifer has garnered a strong background in marketing, management and partnerships. In 2020 Jennifer took the helm at Aspect/Ratio Projects, changing the programming to include

emerging and mid-career, interdisciplinary conceptual artists focused on painting, photography and sculpture. In fall of 2021 Aspect/Ratio Projects changed its name to ENGAGE Projects highlighting Jennifer's personal mission of engaging with artists, communities and patrons in order to make art, and the art community, more accessible to everyone.

Jennifer has been involved with a number of boards and executive committees including the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago Artists Coalition, The Chicago History Museum Costume Council, PANDAS/PANS Advocacy and Support, The Founder's Board at Lurie Children's Hospital and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, among others.

Jennifer lives in Chicago with her two children, Jaden and Siena.

About Chicago Architecture Biennial

The Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) is a non-profit organization dedicated to convening the world to explore innovative ideas and bring people together to collectively imagine and shape the future of design. CAB's programs are committed to producing opportunities to explore and address timely global issues through the lens of architecture and design, emphasizing community engagement, sustainability and equity. Free and open to the public, CAB stands as North America's largest international survey of contemporary architecture and design.

The signature program of the Chicago Architecture Biennial takes place every two years at the Chicago Cultural Center and sites across the city. CAB has hosted five editions since 2015: *This is a Rehearsal* (2023); *The Available City* (2021); *...and other such stories* (2019); *Make New History* (2017); and *The State of the Art of Architecture* (2015).

CAB programming throughout the year engages global audiences in conversations exploring critical ideas and questions facing the field and beyond. Over the course of its internationally heralded editions, CAB has presented projects created by more than 400 architects, designers and artists from nearly 50 countries.