



THE SHELLEY & DONALD RUBIN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW LEADERSHIP



Sara Reisman, Executive and Artistic Director of The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation (left)
Alex Gardner, Executive Director of The Treasury of Lives (right)

New York, February 21, 2017 - The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of **Sara Reisman**, formerly the Artistic Director of the Foundation, to the position of **Executive and Artistic Director**. **Alex Gardner** formerly Executive Director of the Foundation, will now lead **The Treasury of Lives**, a project of the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation that recently established independent non-profit status, as its **Executive Director**.

As **Executive and Artistic Director** of the **Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation**, **Sara Reisman** will oversee the Foundation's interests, including the **Art and Social Justice** initiative, a program that aims to broaden artistic and cultural access in New York City through grant making and programming. This involves assessing opportunities for Foundation activity with arts and cultural organizations that catalyze collective action, promote equality, contribute to advocacy and policy change, and develop capacity for greater civic engagement through public programs. Reisman will lead the Foundation's annual grants program designed to support art in all areas of civic life: arts education, public art, art in community and service centers, artistic activism, and community-based museums.

Sara Reisman will continue to oversee **the Foundation's program of exhibitions and events for The 8th Floor**, an interdisciplinary space established in 2010 by the Rubin family. Since joining the Foundation in 2015, Reisman has organized several exhibitions and related programming focusing on contemporary social issues. Most recently, she curated ***The Intersectional Self***, an exhibition centered on gender and feminist politics in the age of trans-identity, currently on view at The 8th Floor until May 19, 2017.

"As the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation's Executive and Artistic Director, I'm proud to further its Art and Social Justice Initiative to expand artistic and cultural access in New York City. The idea that artists and cultural producers can act as catalysts for social change is at the core of Foundation's mission, and I strongly believe that the work we support through philanthropic means is essential" says Sara Reisman. "The programs and events that we organize, which are designed to foster community engagement and social awareness, will become even more crucial in the coming years given the current political climate."

Alexander Gardner, as the newly appointed **Executive Director** of **The Treasury of Lives**, will focus on and implement the website's scholarly and visual content. With currently over 1150 biographies, written by over 90 scholars from around the world, The Treasury of Lives is one of the largest biographical encyclopedias of Tibet, Inner Asia and the Himalayan region, designed for specialists and the general public alike.

"The Treasury of Lives has become one of the premier resources for

scholars, educators, and anyone interested in Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism," says Gardner. "I'm excited to focus on developing this resource, as a way to raise further awareness of the deep history and enriching value of Tibetan and Himalayan cultures, of which Shelley and Donald Rubin have been long-time supporters and advocates."

About Sara Reisman

Prior to her appointment as Executive and Artistic Director, Reisman was the Artistic Director of the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation from 2015 to 2017. From 2008 until 2014, Reisman was the Director of New York City's Percent for Art program which commissions permanent public artworks for newly constructed and renovated city-owned spaces, indoors and out. During her tenure, Reisman worked on more than 100 commissions, including projects with Pablo Helguera, Brian Tolle, Rico Gatson, Karyn Olivier, Duke Riley, Ohad Meromi, and Mary Mattingly, among others, for civic sites like libraries, public schools, streetscapes and parks. She was the 2013 Marica Curatorial Vilcek Fellow, with research in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Bulgaria, which was organized by the Foundation for a Civil Society, and the 2011 Critic-in-Residence at Art Omi, an international visual artists residency in Ghent, New York. Reisman earned her BA at the University of Chicago and was a Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program in 2002-2003.

About Alexander Gardner

Prior to becoming the Executive Director of The Treasury of Lives, Alexander Gardner was the Executive Director of the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation from 2013 to 2017, where he oversaw the Foundation's Art and Social Justice initiative alongside Sara Reisman. He was the Associate Director of the Foundation from 2007 to 2013. Gardner was the Director and Chief Editor of The Treasury of Lives prior to this appointment. Gardner completed his PhD in Buddhist Studies at the University of Michigan in 2007.

About The Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation

The Foundation believes in art as a cornerstone of cohesive, resilient communities and greater participation in civic life. In its mission to make art available to the broader public, in particular to underserved communities, the Foundation provides direct support to, and facilitates partnerships between, cultural organizations and advocates of social justice across the

public and private sectors. Through grantmaking, the Foundation supports cross-disciplinary work connecting art with social justice via experimental collaborations, as well as extending cultural resources to organizations and areas of New York City in need. For further information, please visit sdrubin.org.

About The Treasury of Lives

The Treasury of Lives is a biographical encyclopedia of Tibet, Inner Asia and the Himalayan region. The website currently contains over 1150 biographies, written by over 90 scholars from around the world. The site is designed for specialists and the general public, and is currently being translated into Tibetan and Chinese. The biographies are supplemented with extensive descriptions of places, traditions, and other related content, and are illustrated with related art from the Rubin Museum of Art and other esteemed collections. Every page is cross-linked with Himalayan Art Resources (www.himalayanart.org) and the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (www.tbrc.org). Visitors are able to browse figures by historical period, geography, monastery, clan, religious affiliation, and other categories. With an active social media presence, the biographies are reaching approximately 5,000 users every month. For more information, please visit treasuryoflives.org.

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