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BCA ANNOUNCES NEW CURATOR OF VISUAL ARTS

After a nationwide search, the Boston Center for the Arts (BCA) has announced that **José Luis Blondet** is the Curator of Visual Arts Programs at the BCA. In this capacity his responsibilities will include curating exhibitions and projects in the Mills Gallery, the Cyclorama and other available spaces at the BCA. Blondet is relocating from New York, where he worked for four years at the Dia Art Foundation organizing public and education programs, and collaborated with artists such as Joan Jonas in performance art projects. Prior to Dia, he was the Director of the Education Department of the Museum of Fine Arts, Caracas,

Blondet received his Masters of Art in Curatorial Studies from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College in June 2003, thanks to a fellowship granted by the Ciisneros Foundation (New York, Caracas). During his tenure at Dia:Beacon, in addition to his responsibilities for planning all public programs, he was active in curatorial practice and criticism, organizing shows at various venues as well as publishing critical articles in international magazines such as *Lápiz* (Madrid), and *Art Nexus* (Miami). Recently, Blondet has contributed a catalogue essay for an Andy Warhol exhibition at La Casa Encendida, Madrid. Blondet has published articles about artists such as Liliana Porter, Marina Abramowicz and Vasco Arujo, among others.

Libbie Shufro, President and CEO of the BCA stated that “José Luis brings the mind and concept of the internationalist to a gallery that continues its commitment to local artists. The BCA welcomes his energy, enthusiasm and knowledge.”

Blondet, who now makes his home in the South End, is excited about his arrival in Boston. After a recent meeting of the BCA Curatorial Advisory Committee, he noted, “They were really welcoming and enthusiastic. For me it was a great opportunity to meet curators who are working at leading institutions in Boston. Now that I’ve been designated curator for the entire campus of the BCA, not just the Mills, I look forward to establishing partnerships with other institutions, curators, and artists. We can pursue projects at the Cyclorama, the plaza and the gallery that will help us re-examine the notion of local.”

The Mills Gallery presents a broad range of art exhibitions that represent the diverse aesthetics and approaches of participating artists, and is host to artist and curator talks and public receptions. The 20th bi-annual Drawing Show opens at the Mills on November 16 and is being curated by guest artist **Maria Magdalena Campos Pons**.

The Boston Center for the Arts is a unique performing and visual arts complex that incubates and showcases arts and artists, reflects the emerging voices of our times and encourages people from all walks of life to experience the vitality of art. It is located at 539 Tremont Street in Boston’s South End.