

The Noguchi Museum Welcomes Queena Ko as Director of Education



Queena Ko. Photo: Justin Raul Baez. © The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, NY / Artists Rights Society

New York (September 20, 2022) – Brett Littman, Director of The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum (The Noguchi Museum), announced today the appointment of Queena Ko to serve as the Museum’s new Director of Education. As a member of the senior leadership team, she will oversee the Museum’s education department and further its mission of fostering participatory connections between the work and life of Isamu Noguchi and lived experiences of people today. She started at the Museum on September 12.

Mr. Littman stated, “We are very lucky to hire Queena Ko as our new education director at The Noguchi Museum. The expertise, care, and enthusiasm she brings to her work and her forward-looking and innovative ideas about art education and community engagement will be a great asset to the Museum.”

Ms. Ko stated, “Education programs and partnerships are key to forming personally meaningful connections with the art, design, and vision of Isamu Noguchi. It is an honor to work with educators to cultivate a dynamic museum culture that belongs to everyone.”

Prior to joining the Museum, Ms. Ko was Manager of Academic Engagement at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and managed internships and programming with local academic partners

including the City University of New York, Rutgers University, and Bard Graduate Center. During her tenure she led education initiatives that brought underrepresented artists and artworks to the forefront. Queena's writing is published in *Teaching Modern and Contemporary Asian Art* (Guggenheim Museum Publications, 2020) and *Creating Meaningful Museum Experiences for K-12 Audiences: How to Connect with Teachers and Engage with Students* (Rowman & Littlefield / American Alliance of Museums, 2021). She has led education programs at the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, The Getty Center, and Hammer Museum. Her teaching practice focuses on inquiry that centers anti-bias and anti-racist frameworks to empower audiences of all ages to share diverse perspectives. As a child of Chinese immigrants, Ms. Ko is passionate about community engagement and promoting equity, inclusivity, and access to the arts. Ms. Ko received her Bachelor of Arts in Art and Architectural Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

ABOUT EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

In the spirit of Isamu Noguchi's artistic vision, education programs at The Noguchi Museum encourage active exploration through interdisciplinary learning and highlight Noguchi's hybrid identity and life as a lens through which to explore his art. In addition to hosting programs for visitors of all ages, abilities, and identities at the Museum and online, Noguchi educators frequently co-create programs with community organizations across New York City. Programs have included: multi-week school partnerships; Project Luz, a Spanish-language photography class; Making Your Mark, a free summer studio art program for high school students; Seen and Unseen, an interactive virtual program for adults who are blind or have low vision; programs for families combining gallery experiences, conversation, and art-making activities offered in English, Japanese, and Spanish; hands-on art and writing workshops with special guest artists; and more.

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying artist Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum), was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Located in Long Island City, Queens, the Museum itself is widely viewed as among the artist's greatest achievements. Holding the world's largest collection of his works, it features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed 1920s industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. Consistent with Noguchi's interest in art being experiential, works are often displayed without barriers or interpretation to encourage visitors to form personal and introspective connections.

Accompanying the permanent installations placed by Noguchi, the Museum presents temporary exhibitions exploring themes in Noguchi's work, his milieu and collaborators, and his enduring influence today among contemporary practitioners across disciplines. It exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi's material culture, from sculpture, models, and drawings, to his personal possessions, and manages the artist's archives and catalogue raisonné. Through its rich collection, exhibitions, and programming, the Museum facilitates scholarship and learning for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. **noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)**

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