

The Noguchi Museum Announces Key Leadership Appointments, Welcoming Hitomi Iwasaki as Head Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs

The Appointment is One of Several Senior Staff Hires, Strengthening the Museum's Vision for 2025 and Beyond



Hitomi Iwasaki. Photo: Jeff Chieng-Hsing Liao

New York (June 27, 2025) – **The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Hitomi Iwasaki** as its new Head Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, effective **September 2, 2025**. Iwasaki joins from the Queens Museum, where she has served on the curatorial team since 1996 and most recently as Director of Exhibitions and Head Curator.

In her nearly three decades at the Queens Museum, Iwasaki has earned acclaim for her dynamic, cross-disciplinary approach to contemporary art, organizing and overseeing landmark exhibitions including *Global Conceptualism: Points of Origin, 1950s–1980s*; *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World*; *Christine Sun Kim: Time Owes Me Rest Again*; and *Aki Sasamoto: Point Reflection*. She has long championed emerging artists and helped shape the museum's artist residency and fellowship programs while also managing significant institutional expansions.

“I am deeply honored and extremely thrilled to join The Noguchi Museum, a unique universe where Isamu Noguchi’s artistic spirit and humanity manifest in various materials and forms,” said **Iwasaki**. “Born and raised in Japan and professionally nurtured in the U.S., I thrive in the fertile tension of dual cultures—much like Noguchi, as he explored his most profound artistic expressions in that rich interstitial space. I look forward to forging dynamic programs that reflect openness, experimentation, and collaboration.”

In addition to Iwasaki’s appointment, the Museum has also recently welcomed two new senior leadership team members:



Mack Cole-Edelsack. Photo: Natalie Colarossi

Mack Cole-Edelsack joined as **Director of Operations** in April 2025. A licensed architect with over two decades of experience in cultural operations and design, he previously served as Vice President of Operations at Mercer Labs, overseeing the transformation of the historic East River Savings Bank building into a cutting-edge immersive arts venue. Earlier in his career, he spent nearly a decade at The Museum of Modern Art, contributing to over 100 exhibitions and to capital projects including the institution’s 2019 expansion.

Tia Williams began her role as **Director of Finance** in April 2025. Williams brings over ten years of financial leadership in the nonprofit sector, most recently serving as Director of Finance and Administration at Poets & Writers. Her expertise spans financial planning, compliance, internal controls, and audit oversight.



Tia Williams. Photo: Natalie Colarossi

“I have long admired Hitomi’s work at the Queens Museum as well as her significant contributions to the contemporary arts community,” said **Amy Hau**, Director of The Noguchi Museum. “Her curatorial insight, global perspective, and deep commitment to emerging voices will be invaluable as we continue to advance the Museum’s mission and celebrate Noguchi’s enduring relevance. We’re also thrilled to welcome Mack and Tia to our leadership team; together, this dynamic group brings a remarkable depth of experience that will help shape the Museum’s next chapter.”

These appointments reflect The Noguchi Museum’s ongoing commitment to institutional growth, cross-cultural dialogue, and stewardship of Isamu Noguchi’s legacy.

For more information about The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum, visit noguchi.org and follow the Museum on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

ABOUT THE NOGUCHI MUSEUM

Founded in 1985 by category-defying sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum) in Queens, New York, was the first museum in the United States to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show their own work. Itself widely viewed as among the artist’s greatest achievements and holding the world’s largest collection of his works, the Museum features open air and indoor galleries in a repurposed industrial building and a serene outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to managing the artist’s archives and catalogue raisonné, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of Noguchi’s material culture, from sculpture, models and drawings to his personal possessions. Provocative installations drawn from the permanent collection, together with diverse special exhibitions and collaborations with practitioners across disciplines, offer a multifaceted view of Noguchi’s art and illuminate his enduring influence. **noguchi.org | [@noguchimuseum](https://www.instagram.com/noguchimuseum)**

The Noguchi Museum

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Open Wednesdays–Sundays, 11 am–6 pm

noguchi.org/visit

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