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**ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Kayla Carlsen Takes the Helm of the Oldest Museum in New York State on July 15**

ALBANY, NY--The Albany Institute of History & Art has selected its next executive director following a national search that attracted more than 70 candidates, the museum announced today. Kayla Carlsen, currently Senior Vice President, Head of American Art, at Sotheby's, New York, will begin her tenure on July 15.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of the museum's new leader," said George R. Hearst III, chair of the board of the Albany Institute. "As a native of the Hudson Valley, and an expert in American art, Ms. Carlsen is uniquely suited to understanding the Albany Institute's history and significance in the region, and leveraging its potential for future growth and impact," Hearst continued. "I am grateful for the diligence and commitment of Immediate Past Chair F. Michael Tucker, the wisdom of the Board Search Committee, and the guidance of consultant Dan Keegan of Museum Leadership Placement that led to this auspicious conclusion."



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A native of Greene County, near Albany, Carlsen has held senior positions at three of the world's leading art businesses, most recently heading the American Art Department at Sotheby's. As a specialist in American art, Kayla's art historical preferences are uniquely in line with the Institute's collections. She holds a BA in Art History from Clark University (Worcester, MA) and completed her MA Coursework at Hunter College (New York, NY). Her additional experience includes internships, fellowships, and special programs at Historic Deerfield (Deerfield, MA), Olana State Historic Site (Hudson, NY) and the University of East Anglia (Norwich, England).

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ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

“I have long respected the Albany Institute as a cornerstone of the Capital Region, and I am excited to return to the area after nearly two decades in the New York art world to shepherd this renowned institution into the next chapter of its history,” Carlsen said. “I look forward to engaging with the Institute’s long-standing constituents, as well as new audiences and supporters who represent the next generation of the museum.” She went on to say, “I am honored that the Albany Institute’s Board of Trustees has selected me to lead the talented team here and provide a strategic vision that will propel the museum to new heights. As we face the challenge of an ever-changing landscape, my goal will be to respect tradition and safeguard our history while continually building upon it as a foundation for the future.”

“The Albany Institute will be in the very best hands with Kayla at its helm – she is a generous leader and mentor who passionately advocates for her team and her clients,” said Scott Niichel, Head of Auctions, Modern & Contemporary Art at Sotheby’s. “She is also a consummate expert of her field and has helped transform and globalize the auction market for American Art. We wish her huge success in this new role.”

The Albany Institute looks forward to introducing Ms. Carlsen to the community at a series of meetings and events during the summer and autumn.

MEET KAYLA CARLSEN

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ABOUT THE ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

Founded in 1791, the Albany Institute of History & Art is New York’s oldest museum. Its collections document the Hudson Valley as a crossroads of culture, influencing the art and history of the region, the state, and the nation. With more than 35,000 objects and one million documents in the library, it is an important resource for the region, giving our community a sense of the part the Hudson Valley played in the American story, and our own place in history. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are open year-round and create a sense of place, allowing visitors to meet the people who helped shape this region. Among the museum’s best-known collections are the 19th century Hudson River School landscape paintings by artists like Thomas Cole and Frederic Church.

For more information, please visit www.albanyinstitute.org or call (518) 463-4478.

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