



# THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 14, 2023

## **THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA) APPOINTS KELSEY SHELL AS ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIST**



**LOS ANGELES, CA**—The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) has appointed Kelsey Shell as MOCA’s Environmental & Sustainability Strategist, a position supporting the museum’s sustainability practices and programs. With more than a decade of experience in contemporary art organizations, Shell joins MOCA from Zlot Buell + Associates, where she served as Director of Public Art. She is a co-founder of Art + Climate Action, a collective of California arts workers dedicated to reducing the sector’s environmental impact, and a co-founder of the Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC) Los Angeles. Shell begins her full-time position at MOCA on April 17 and she will work on all aspects of sustainability, climate and environmental justice programming, and environmentally related exhibitions.

“MOCA is deeply committed to strategic thinking about sustainability, and its intersections with issues of environmental and social justice. Kelsey’s experience, insights, and creative vision will help us to achieve our own institutional goals while playing an active role within the larger cultural community of which we are a part,” said Johanna Burton, The Maurice Marciano Director. “With Kelsey’s support, MOCA’s Environmental Council and the museum team will make great strides toward a more equitable and healthy future.”

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This is the first Environmental & Sustainability Strategist position at a U.S. arts museum, and the role will support and orchestrate the museum's green team. The position is funded by the MOCA Environmental Council.

From 2015 until 2022, Shell worked with Zlot Buell + Associates, an art advisory firm specializing in post-war and contemporary art, where she developed their public art business. Projects include Alicja Kwade's *Pars Pro Toto* at Stanford University; Eamon Ore-Giron's *Infinite Regress CXIV* at TIAA/Nuveen, New York; and Danh Vo's *Massive Black Hole at the Dark Heart of our Milky Way* in San Francisco's Financial District. Through her work, Shell recognized the art world's intense climate impact and began integrating sustainable practices into all aspects of her work. In 2020, she conducted an emissions audit for Zlot Buell, which resulted in their support of Art into Acres' land conservation in Peru's Chuyapi Urusayhua Regional Conservation Area.

In addition to her leadership of Art + Climate Action and GCC LA, Shell has participated in the inaugural Ki Futures Program which stewards institutional sustainability education and community green team development, and she is a member of the global coalition Partners for Arts Climate Targets (PACT), whose members MOCA has supported through Strategic Climate Funds, programming and intersectional dialogues in periodic conferences. "I am thrilled to join the dynamic team at MOCA and support their strong commitment to climate, conservation, and environmental justice," said Shell. "I look forward to collaborating with the Environmental Council, MOCA's incredible staff, and our community of artists—the beating heart of this institution—on meaningful and mindful change."

In 2020, MOCA announced the creation of an Environmental Council, the first for a major art museum in the United States. The council is focused on climate, conservation, and environmental justice in furtherance of the museum's mission. Supporting the museum's wide-ranging sustainability initiatives, the council works toward institution-wide carbon negativity, carbon-free energy, environmentally-focused exhibitions, educational programming, related artist support, and reductions in emissions and consumption. MOCA plans to publicly share the council's efforts and progress as a platform for public dialogue and engagement on this urgent topic. For more information about MOCA's Environmental Council, visit [www.moca.org/about/environmental-council](http://www.moca.org/about/environmental-council).

Image credit: Photo by Caleb Townsend.

## THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

**About MOCA:** Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

**More Information:** For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213/626-6222 or access MOCA online at [moca.org](http://moca.org).

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