

FERRAN BARENBLIT

Internationally recognized museum director with extensive managerial and curatorial experience who has led uninterruptedly three museums in the last twenty years. An expert in contemporary art with a deep understanding of its political and social extensions who has worked with some of the most relevant artists on the global scene.

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY Museum studies Program 1995

UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA M.A. in Art History 1992

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR

Visiting Professor

August 2021 - Present

Courses include "Art and politics since 1975", "Art of the 21st Century", for the Department of History of Art and "Directing and programming", for the Museum Studies Program.

MACBA, MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART BARCELONA

Director

2015 – June 2021

One of Europe's most prominent museums, with a budget of \$14M, staff of 150 and attendance of 400K.

Institutional	After reversing a serious reputational crisis, returned the museum to the prestigious position that held in the past. Succeeded in articulating the diversity of interests present in its board to ensure the stability and growth of the institution.
Expansion	Responsible for commissioning a new wing of 130,000 sq feet that will be a reality in 2025, and completed the comprehensive fundraising campaign for its construction
Finance	Highest earned revenue ever (one-third of the operating budget, \$3,5M). Working with MACBA Foundation, raised all the money required for the collection acquisitions (around 700K per year). The successful capital campaign raised the funds for the expansion, more than \$12M.
Audiences	During the tenure, the museum achieved its record attendance of almost 400K visitors thanks to an outstanding program, a well-defined marketing strategy and the popular Uniqlo Saturdays, offering free admission.
Program	Worked with the curatorial team to grow MACBA's artistic and intellectual excellence.
Collection	Expanded the collection with well-negotiated purchases, which included works purchased in partnership with Tate Modern and the Whitney Museum. During his tenure, the museum received the most generous donation of its history, the Rafael Tous Collection of conceptual art with around 600 works "A short century", first permanent display of the collection.
International	The exhibitions produced by MACBA traveled to the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Argentina, Mexico, United Arab Emirates and South Korea. Worked intensely in L'Internationale, the European confederation of contemporary art museums.

CA2M DE LA COMUNIDAD DE MADRID

Director

2008 – 2015

The Region of Madrid contemporary art museum, with a budget of \$3.5M, staff of 30 and attendance of 120K.

As a founding director, responsible for defining a narrative and positioning this museum for the local and international audiences, plus defining the scope, chronology and ambition of the collection and the program. In only seven years, CA2M succeeded in generating a dialogue with its constituents and became widely recognized in Europe and Latin America as an institution expanding the horizons of contemporary art.

CASM CENTRO DE ARTE SANTA MÓNICA, BARCELONA

Director

2002 – 2008

Non-collecting art center, with a budget of \$1.7M, staff of 14 and attendance of 100K

FUNDACIÓ JOAN MIRÓ, BARCELONA

Curator, E13 contemporary art exhibitions

1996 – 2001

Fundació Joan Miró is a major museum of modern and contemporary art, devoted to the work of the artist.

THE NEW MUSEUM, NEW YORK

Assistant Curator

1994 – 1996

Worked with director Marcia Tucker in two exhibitions, one of them held at the White House, Washington DC.

LECTURES AND SEMINARS (selection)

USA

Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ
Cincinnati Arts Center, OH
New York University, NY
Otis School of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Site Santa Fe, NM
UC Berkeley, CA
UC Santa Barbara, CA

Latin America

Universidad de Buenos Aires
PROA, Buenos Aires
Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Montevideo
Universidade Santa Cecília, São Paulo
Museo Nacional de Arte, Havana
CCSP, São Paulo
UNAM, Mexico City
Universidad de Cuenca, Ecuador

Asia

Chengdu Biennial, China
Dhaka Art Summit, Bangladesh
Abu Dhabi Music and Art Festival, UAE
Israeli Center for Digital Art, Holon
Art Fair Philippines, Manila
Association of Japanese Art Critics, Tokyo
Indian Art Fair, Delhi

Europe

Royal Academy of Art, Copenhagen
Royal Academy, Rome
VanAbbe Museum, Eindhoven
State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
Moscow Museum of Modern Art
Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg
Université Paris III
Venice Biennale
SALT Istanbul
Universidad de Barcelona
Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
Universidad Complutense, Madrid
Universidad Carlos III, Madrid
Univ Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Santander
Moderna Galleria, Ljubljana
Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw
Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw
M HKA, Antwerp
Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid
Museo do Chiado, Lisbon
OK Centrum, Linz
Tensta Konsthall, Stockholm
National Museum of Contemporary Art, Oslo
Ludwig Museum, Budapest

EXHIBITIONS (selection) *denotes personally curated

MACBA (2015-2021)

Felix Gonzalez-Torres: The Politics of Relation
Fina Miralles: I Am All the Selves that I Have Been
Tony Cokes: Music, text, politics
Action. A provisional history of the nineties*
Takis
Charlotte Posenenske: Work in Progress
Undefined Territories: Perspectives on Colonial Legacies
Christian Marclay: Compositions
Jaume Plensa*
AIDS archive
Raqs Media Collective. In the Open or in Stealth: The Unruly Presence of an Intimate Future
The short century. MACBA permanent collection
Melanie Smith: Farce and Artifice
Domènec. Not here, not anywhere
Oscar Masotta. Theory as Action
Francesc Torres. The Hermetic Bell. Space for a Non-Transferable Anthropology
From Barcelona to Abu Dhabi*
Rosemarie Castoro. Focus at Infinity
Ramin Haerizadeh, Rokni Haerizadeh, Hesam Rahmanian: The Maids
Brossa: Poetry
Forensic Architecture: Towards an Investigative Aesthetics
Akram Zaatari: Against photography. An annotated history of the Arab Image Foundation
Hard gelatin: Hidden stories from the 80s
Miralda: Made in USA
PUNK. Its Traces in Contemporary Art
Andrea Fraser. L'1%, c'est moi

CA2M (2008-2015)

Fernando Sánchez Castillo: Más allá*
Jeremy Deller: The infinitely variable idea of the popular*
Los Torreznos*
Teresa Margolles: The witness
Raqs Media Collective: It's possible because it's possible*
Per/Form: How to do things with(out) words
Carlos Garaicoa: Inconclusive order
Rabih Mroué: Images Mon Amour
Halil Altindere*
Pop Politics: Activisms at 33 revolutions
Lara Almarcegui
Aernout Mik*
Walead Beshty: A diagram of forces
Gregor Schneider: Deadlock
Wilfredo Prieto: Tied to the table leg*
Sonic Youth etc: Sensational Fix
Critical Fetishes. Residues of general economy
Guy Ben Ner: Fold along the lines
Cristina Lucas: Light years

CASM (2002-2008)

Jiri Kowanda against the rest of the world
Franz West: Hamsterwheel
Maria Nordman*
Nedko Solakov: Rivals*
Christian Jankowski: The living sculptures*
Ron Arad*

FUNDACIÓ JOAN MIRÓ (1996-2001)

Irony*
Joseph Grigely*
João Louro*

08/11/2022