

## **Franklin Sirmans**

### **Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art**

Franklin Sirmans is the Terri and Michael Smooke Curator and Department Head of Contemporary Art at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). At LACMA, in addition to co-curating the retrospective *Noah Purifoy: Junk Dada* (June 7–September 27, 2015), Sirmans has organized *Variations: Conversations in and Around Abstract Painting*; *Fútbol: The Beautiful Game*; *Color and Form*; *Robert Therrien*; *Ends and Exits: Contemporary Art from the Collections of LACMA and the Broad Art Foundation*, and co-organized the exhibition *Human Nature: Contemporary Art from the Collection*. He has also organized the museum's presentations of *Blinky Palermo: Retrospective, 1964–1977*, *Ai Weiwei's Circle of Animals*, and *Glenn Ligon: America*. He was also the artistic director of *Prospect.3: Notes for Now* in New Orleans (2014).

From 2006 to 2010, Sirmans was the curator of modern and contemporary art at the Menil Collection in Houston, where he organized exhibitions including *NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith*, *Maurizio Cattelan: Is There Life before Death*, *Steve Wolfe: On Paper*, and *Vija Celmins: Television and Disaster, 1964–66*. Sirmans was the 2007 recipient of the David C. Driskell Prize, awarded by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. Prior to 2006, Sirmans held editorial positions at Dia Center for the Arts, *Flash Art Magazine*, and *ArtAsiaPacific*. He has written extensively for catalogues in addition to articles and reviews in publications such as *The New York Times*, *Time Out New York*, *Essence*, *Parkett*, and *Grand Street*. Sirmans has also lectured at colleges, universities and numerous art institutions.