

# CLYFFORD STILL | MUSEUM

## DEAN SOBEL

### Director

As Director of the Clyfford Still Museum, Dean Sobel spearheaded the efforts to create a permanent home for the Clyfford Still Estate, encompassing approximately 3,000 works of art by Still that were bequeathed to the City of Denver in 2004. Since his appointment in 2005, Sobel, a specialist in 20<sup>th</sup>-century art, established the vision for the museum and led the process of selecting Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works Architecture as the architect for the new museum. The Clyfford Still Museum opened to international acclaim in November of 2011.

From 2000–2005, Sobel was Director of the Aspen Art Museum, a non-collecting *kunsthalle*. During his tenure, Sobel led the institution through its accreditation process and developed museum goals and programs for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including an ambitious presentation of site-specific installations presented around Aspen. Additionally, he organized Thomas Demand's first traveling exhibition as well as one-person exhibitions of Robert Mangold, Ilya Kabakov, John Currin, Elizabeth Peyton, and Olafur Eliasson.

Prior to this appointment, from 1995–2000, Sobel was Chief Curator at the Milwaukee Art Museum, where he held the joint position of Curator of Contemporary Art. Highlighted projects curated by Sobel include retrospectives on the work of Vito Acconci and Jackie Winsor; one-artist projects with Louise Bourgeois, Ed Ruscha, Terry Winters, Cindy Sherman, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, and Stan Douglas; and the group shows *From Figure to Floor: Sculpture in the 20th Century*, *Abstract Expressionism: Works on Paper from the Milwaukee Art Museum*, and *25 Americans: Painting in the 90s*. Among his many acquisitions were major works by Bill Viola, Kiki Smith, Robert Gober, Glenn Ligon, and Felix Gonzalez-Torres. In addition, Sobel played an integral role in planning the museum's \$120-million capital expansion, designed by Santiago Calatrava, which opened in 2001.