

Women's Studio Workshop Hires Lauren Walling as Deputy Executive Director

Addition is Pivotal to Organization's First Succession in 40-Year History

ROSENDALE, NY, August 11, 2014 — [The Women's Studio Workshop](#) is pleased to announce that effective today, [Lauren V. Walling](#) is organization's Deputy Executive Director. A working artist, business owner and arts educator for more than 15 years, Lauren has served on the Workshop's board of directors since 2011.

The hire is a critical step in the Workshop's succession plan. Established in 1974 by Executive Director Ann Kalmbach, Artistic Director Tana Kellner, Development Director Anita Wetzel and Board Emerita Barbara Leoff Burge, the WSW has been managed continuously and exclusively by its founders for 40 years. This rare continuity created a distinct culture that enabled the Workshop to grow from a print studio in a rented house into the world's largest producer of [handmade artists' books](#).

"We faced a real challenge in finding the kind of person who can both sustain the culture and traditions of the Workshop, and help execute our ambitious growth plans," Kalmbach says. "Lauren's energy, enthusiasm, personal experience with the Workshop and broad range of credentials and connections make her a perfect fit for the job."

Lauren earned an MA in Art Education at Teachers College Columbia University, an MAR in Religious Studies and Art History at Yale Divinity School, and a BA at Wells College. In addition, she has studied art at the School of Visual Arts, the Art Students League, the Glassell School of Art, and fashion design at the Fashion Institute of Technology-FIT. She is a member of the Isamu Noguchi Think Tank for Museum and Art Educators and the Yale Alumni Non-Profit Alliance (YANA).

"Lauren has a real vision," says WSW Board President Ellen Alexander. "The Workshop is in the process of doubling the size of our facility and program capacity. Lauren's experience in both education and development has already yielded great results in this effort, and the fact she is a working artist means she is inherently in tune with our mission, our staff and our artists. We could not be happier to have her in this role."

In addition to its internationally renowned residency program, the WSW's Hands On Art program has been ranked the best children's art education program in the state by the New York State Council on the Arts. Its Art Farm grows sustainable fibers for innovative and

experimental papermaking, and its Summer Art Institute is open to all artists interested in refining their printmaking, papermaking and book arts skills.

“The Women’s Studio Workshop is unlike any other arts organization,” Walling says. “From its commitment to women artists, to its focus on often-overlooked mediums, to its welcoming and down-to-earth environment—it’s a special place that is treasured by artists and the community. I’m honored to help lead the Workshop into the future.”

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