



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-winning Artist & Independent Curator Barak adé Soleil is appointed Director of Emerging Curators Institute.

LINKS

Website: www.emergingcurators.org

Images:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Mp8stX8cCXUePKIWiz4m7q1nGAhnSSGA?usp=share_link

CONTACTS

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Nicole Thomas, Design and Communications Manager: nicole@emergingcurators.org



Image credit: Nikki Bruce.

Image description: Black & White image of the side profile of Barak, a brown skinned black person with a mustache, salt & pepper beard who is wearing a gray tweed flat cap and a cable knit sweater. Barak's face is resting in one hand, signifying being in deep thought.

Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN—February 21, 2023.

[Emerging Curators Institute](#) (ECI) is pleased to welcome [Barak adé Soleil](#) as its new Director. Barak (they + he) is an award-winning artist, curator, administrator, facilitator, and consultant, who has been working within the contemporary arts field since 1991. They were most recently Co-Director at Live Art Development Agency in London and previously served as Co-Curator of the Prismatic Arts Festival's THE TALK in Ottawa, the Artistic Director of Tangled Art+Disability in Toronto, and the Director of Programs at Threewalls, Chicago. Following an international search facilitated by a committee of ECI's former and current advisory board members, Barak was selected to lead this groundbreaking initiative.

"ECI is in an exciting moment of transition. While the committee was very excited about Barak's lived experience and professional history, what we were most moved by was their deep understanding of the value of reciprocal mentorship and their passion for care-centered practice. With this combined skill set and visionary philosophy, Barak is the ideal leader to bring ECI into its next chapter and nourish early career curators for the years to come," said Jehra Patrick, founder and outgoing Co-director.

For more than three decades Barak adé Soleil has charted an expansive career as artist, independent curator and consultant, cultivating contemporary art within the community. Their work draws on traditions of the African diaspora, queerness, postmodernism and disability aesthetics. Throughout their career Barak has cultivated meaningful exchanges with diverse communities, as well as witnessed, supported and participated in powerful artmaking across North and South America, Europe, and West Africa.

As ECI's new Director, Barak is "looking forward to supporting the next generation of curators and to cultivating progressive conversations that inspire bold visions of what curation can and should be."

Founded by Jehra Patrick in 2018, Emerging Curators Institute is a groundbreaking initiative in Minnesota designed to build the individual practices of emerging curators—emphasizing women, gender-non-conforming, and BIPOC curators—through collaborative and in-depth research, professional development, mentorship, and public programming. The first of its kind in the region, ECI aims to foster critical dialogue around curatorial practice and provide opportunities for Minnesota-based emerging curators.

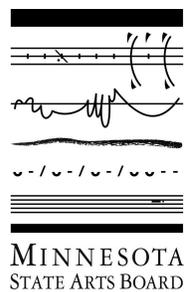
Since its inception, ECI has hosted three cycles of the fellowship learning program and public program series. ECI will welcome a new cohort of curatorial fellows in April and support the 2022-23 cohort as they realize curatorial projects at four Minnesota arts venues this Fall. After seven years developing the program and three successful fellowship cycles Jehra Patrick has

confidence that the organization sufficiently stabilized under her direction and decided to step away from her role as Co-Director to make way for new leadership.

As Emerging Curators Institute welcomes new leadership under Barak adé Soleil, it acknowledges the incredible work of Co-Directors Jehra Patrick, Daniel Atkinson, and Sally Frater who supported the organization's growth over the past three years. Jehra will now move on to the role of Board Chair for ECI to continue to support Barak and the organization during the transition.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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