

### **MENIL NAMES NEW CHIEF CONSERVATOR: BRAD EPLEY**

Houston, October 24, 2006—Josef Helfenstein, director of The Menil Collection, has named Brad Epley to head the museum's renowned conservation department. Epley succeeds Elizabeth Lunning, who has retired.

Epley was brought to the Menil in 1999 as assistant paintings conservator by Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, now head of conservation at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Harvard Art Museums. As Chief Conservator he will oversee the museum's conservation laboratory as well as administer the Artists Documentation Program. Created by Mancusi-Ungaro and now collaboration between the Whitney, Harvard and the Menil, the program documents, with artists on camera, the making of contemporary art, focusing on working techniques, materials and media.

After completing a B.A. in Chemistry at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, Epley took his Masters and earned the Certificate of Advanced Study in Art Conservation at the State University of New York College at Buffalo. His graduate internships include programs at the Denver Art Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. His first Menil post followed a post-graduate fellowship in painting and conservation and conservation science at the Hamilton Kerr Institute at the University of Cambridge.

A member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), the International Institute for Conservation (IIC), and the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Epley has published and lectured on a broad range of issues and projects in the field. For the Menil's current exhibition, *Klee and America*, Epley co-authored, with former Menil Mellon fellow Christa Haiml, "Paul Klee's Frames: Documenting Choices and Changes," exploring the artist's specific ideas about the presentation of his work, including aesthetic issues of mounting and framing.

"It was a great learning experience and pleasure to work on the Klee exhibition with Brad," said Menil director Josef Helfenstein, who curated *Klee and America*. "I am