

Summer/Fall 2007

Helga Kessler Aurisch majored in art history at Smith College and subsequently pursued graduate studies at the University of Vienna in Austria, and at the Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg, Germany, where she received her MA and PhD. Her museum experience includes serving on the staff of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, and she joined the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in 2004. In her position as curator of European art at the MFAH, she has organized numerous exhibitions, published, and lectured frequently on 19th-century art.

Monika Kulicka was born in Poland. In her work, she questions stereotypes associated with the natural and the artificial, with death and life, the assumed authority of humans, and the omnipotence of technology. Inspired by the remarkable similarity of the chlorophyll and the hemoglobin molecules, she began a series of projects titled *Blood Relations*. While at Dora Maar House, she worked on a continuation of *Blood Relations*, including a series of evolving paintings, photographs, and film for a video projection.

Arielle Masson, originally from Mexico, grew up in Brussels, Belgium. She completed a master of literature degree and postgraduate studies in linguistics at La Sorbonne in Paris. After moving to Houston in 1986, she received an MFA at the University of Houston and a fellowship from the Core Program of the Glassell School of Art. Her solo exhibitions include *Crónicas de la Tierra* at the Museo de Antropología de Xalapa in Veracruz, México, in 2013; and *The Fifth Element* at the Contemporary Art Gallery, Houston Baptist University, in 2014.

Christine Starkman is curator of Asian art, ancient to contemporary, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. She holds a master's degree in art history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has held curatorial positions at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Cleveland Museum of Art, and she has worked on major museum exhibitions. She co-curated the exhibition *Afghanistan: A Timeless History*, organized by the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet in Paris and Fundación de Caixa in Barcelona. She directed a major reinstallation of the MFAH Asian art galleries.