

# Association of Art Museum Curators

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[www.artcurators.org](http://www.artcurators.org)

The Trustees of the Association of Art Museum Curators, representing more than 850 curators from nearly 280 museums in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada, assert their opposition to the proposed closure of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and the consequent sale of its collection. This decision, taken by the administration and Trustees of the university, is shameful.

The decision to regard the collection of the museum as an asset rather than as a wealth of ideas in physical form was made without consultation of all the most important parties. The professional staff of the Rose Art Museum and its student employees, all of whom who will lose their jobs, were informed only an hour before the decision was announced. The art and art history faculty, past donors to the institution, and its distinguished board of Overseers, many of whom are alumni of the university, were not consulted; nor were the thousands of students who love the museum.

To shut down this wonderful institution and to sell its spectacular collection of modern art—a collection formed over four decades by perceptive and forward-looking donors, including many artists—would be, for ever more, a blot on the reputation of the university. Closure of the museum would deprive future generations of students at Brandeis, and regional and national visitors to its campus, of a precious cultural patrimony. We urge that the Trustees and administration of Brandeis reconsider this decision, and take steps to reaffirm and to augment the place of the Rose Art Museum as a key component of its heritage, as a major component in the intellectual life of its students, and as a treasure for an international audience.

For more information, please contact Sally S. Block, AAMC Director, at 212-879-5701, or at [sally.block@artcurators.org](mailto:sally.block@artcurators.org). To learn more about the Association of Art Museum Curators, please visit [www.artcurators.org](http://www.artcurators.org).