



## **Kathleen Soriano to become Interim Director of Hastings Contemporary**

Kathleen Soriano is to become the Interim Director of Hastings Contemporary, taking up her new role in January 2025.

The independent curator, strategic consultant and broadcaster is taking over the position from Liz Gilmore, who is stepping down from her role after 14 years to become CEO of [The Sherborne](#), a new landmark gallery and arts space in the South West.

*Kathleen Soriano says “I have long been an admirer of Hastings Contemporary, and what has been achieved there, so it is an honour to be part of the team taking the enterprise forward and planning for the gallery's future. Hastings Contemporary is one of the most impressive and entrepreneurial cultural organisations in the UK and I couldn't be more pleased and excited to be joining the team at this exciting phase in their development. “*

Chair of Hastings Contemporary, Professor Andrew Corbett-Nolan, said “*The Board of Trustees is absolutely delighted to be welcoming Kathleen Soriano to Hastings Contemporary. Kathleen's long and incredibly successful track record for world class programming and placemaking will be invaluable to us as we plan for the future including the rollout of our new mobile studio, our continuing ambitions for digital innovation and the development of a new capital masterplan following the recent acquisition of the 99-year lease for the Hastings Contemporary building.*”

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

**Kathleen Soriano** is an independent curator, strategic consultant and broadcaster. Chair of the Liverpool Biennial, on the Advisory Council of 2 Temple Place, and a specialist advisor to the National Trust. With over 35 years' experience in the art world, she has been responsible for contemporary and historical exhibitions, collections and public programmes at the National Portrait Gallery, London and the Royal Academy of Arts, where she was Artistic Director (2009-14), as well as at Compton Verney Art Gallery, where she was previously Director. She has lectured and written extensively on art and her book *Madam and Eve* on women artists, co-authored with Liz Rideal, was published in April 2018. Her broadcast activities include the ten series of *Portrait* and *Landscape Artist of the Year* for SkyArts.

[Hastings Contemporary](#) brings world-class modern and contemporary art to a spectacular coastal setting. With an ambitious programme of exhibitions, events and activities, the gallery aims to enrich lives, support creativity and help Hastings to thrive.

Showcasing internationally celebrated artists and emerging practitioners, the gallery has developed a reputation for its focus on painting and drawing, supported by Artist Patron Sir Quentin Blake. The award-winning building is located on the town's historic fishing beach among the net huts and working structures of the fishing fleet.

Hastings Contemporary is a registered charity. Under 18s can visit for free. Hastings and Rother residents can visit for half price, from just £5. For unlimited free visits, discounts, and more, annual membership starts at £32.

[www.hastingscontemporary.org](http://www.hastingscontemporary.org) / Instagram @hastings.contemporary

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, AND IMAGES**

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