

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Dahesh Museum of Art Appoints Interim Director

*Flora Kaplan, PhD., Founding Director of NYU's Program in Museum Studies begins tenure*

New York, NY, June 1, 2006 – Today, the Trustees of the Dahesh Museum of Art announced the appointment of Dr. Flora E.S. Kaplan to serve as Interim Director, replacing former Director Peter Trippi, who left the Museum in mid-May to work as the editor of *Fine Art Connoisseur* and to pursue projects in nineteenth-century art.

According Museum Trustee Amira Zahid, “Dr. Kaplan has been an advisor to the Museum for over 15 years. Her wide-ranging skills and experience, her academic achievements, personality, and high energy are precisely what we need in this transitional period while we search for a new director and a permanent home. Dr. Kaplan will work closely with Museum's Trustees and staff to chart a course for the future, and will serve as spokesperson for the Museum.”

Flora *Edouwaye* S. Kaplan is Professor *Emerita*, Faculty of Arts and Science (2004), and was the founding director (1977- 99) of the postgraduate Program in Museum Studies, at New York University. She taught anthropology at Lehman College, CUNY, before coming to NYU to teach in 1976. From 1983-85 she was a Fulbright professor, Sociology and Anthropology, University of Benin, Nigeria, and continues to do field research there. She holds a Ph. D. (anthropology) from The Graduate Center, CUNY, and a Master's (archaeology) from Columbia University. She publishes widely on art, museums, gender, politics, and religion, including 60 scholarly journal articles and chapters in edited volumes, and six books. Among her books are: *Queens, Queen Mothers, Priestesses, and Power: Case Studies in African Gender* (1997); and *Museums and the Making of 'Ourselves: The Role of Objects in National Identity* (1994; 3<sup>rd</sup> printing, 1998). Several articles and her latest book, *Benin Art and Culture*, are forthcoming in 2006 and 2007.

In 1998, Dr. Kaplan organized a 4-day international conference in the Museum Studies Program of New York University on *Guardians of Monuments and Memory: Case Studies in Urban Conservation and Museums in the Middle East*. An outgrowth of a joint Master's concentration she initiated with NYU's Near Eastern Studies Program, the conference was co-sponsored with the National

Park Service, and the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Middle Eastern Studies, New York University. Anticipating current issues in archaeological and cultural heritage, the conference focused on major world tourist destinations in Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey bringing noted scholars from those and other countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

Dr. Kaplan was formerly acting curator, the former Department of Primitive Art and New World Cultures, The Brooklyn Museum. She was three times elected to (AAM/ICOM), the United States National Committee of the American Association/International Council of Museums; and was twice elected to the Executive Committee, ICOFOM (International Committee for Museology). She is also an active member of ICME (International Committee for Museum Ethnography); and of the (AAM) Curator, and Museum Training Committees. She co-edits a successful book series, "Museum Meanings," with Eilean Hooper-Greenhill, for Routledge, Ltd.

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