



## Arts Institute

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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DOWNLOAD PHOTO: <https://uwmadison.box.com/v/baldacchino>

### **Baldacchino to lead the Arts Institute at the University of Wisconsin–Madison starting August 2016**

**MADISON, Wis.** - John Baldacchino has been selected as director of the Arts Institute at UW–Madison.

He comes to the UW from the University of Dundee, Scotland, where he held a professorial chair of arts education at The School of Education & Social Work. He expects to begin in his new role in August.



John Baldacchino

“It is a great honor to accept the director position at the Arts Institute,” Baldacchino says. “The University of Wisconsin has a worldwide reputation for excellence in the arts.” He adds: “I hope to build upon that legacy of excellence, and I hope that the institute continues to herald the *Wisconsin Idea*, where I see the arts as a community of diverse and dynamic practices which herald the vibrant character of a democratic space by which academia continues to embrace the wider civil society and the communities that sustain it.”

“John’s academic background as well as his arts experience are valuable additions to our campus and we look forward to having him join us,” UW-Madison Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf says. “I want to thank the search committee for their outstanding work.”

He was among three finalists selected by a 13-member committee chaired by School of Human Ecology Professor Jennifer Angus.

Baldacchino, who will report to the provost, will coordinate and direct activities of the Arts Institute and will have primary responsibility for overseeing budgets, programming, operations, personnel, facilities, marketing, development, community relations and strategic planning.

The Arts Institute, described as the voice of the arts at the university, supports and promotes a variety of programs and initiatives, both its own and those of partners.

Arts Institute

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Working with numerous faculty and staff in a wide range of departments and fields, the institute generates conditions for bold thinking and groundbreaking creative work. Approximately 85 faculty members from across the university are affiliated with the institute.

Norma Saldivar, professor of theatre and drama, previously served as interim director. Saldivar adds: “The last number of years of development in the Arts Institute has been one of the most rewarding times on campus. It’s been a pleasure to be in service to the arts and campus and to be part of the evolution of the institute. There are so many people who have contributed to the development that all deserve my gratitude. I welcome John (Baldacchino) and am confident that he will find this a wonderfully stimulating and rewarding place to work and contribute. I look forward to the future of the Arts Institute and recognize that with the amazing staff and affiliates to support John, the future will be extraordinary.”

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Prior to the University of Dundee, Baldacchino served as faculty and held various senior roles in universities in Britain and the United States including Falmouth University and University of Warwick, both in England, along with Columbia University in New York. He was born and raised in Malta. A practicing visual artist, he is the author of numerous papers, articles, chapters, blogs, and books on the arts, philosophy and education. His artistic and academic work can be found at [johnbaldacchino.com](http://johnbaldacchino.com).

For more information about the Arts Institute, visit: [artsinstitute.wisc.edu/](http://artsinstitute.wisc.edu/)

For the detailed press release written and distributed by UW–Madison University Communications, visit: <http://news.wisc.edu/john-baldacchino-to-lead-arts-institute/>

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