

National News

News Briefs

NEWS

■ **Dan Cameron** has been named director of visual arts at the **Contemporary Arts Center** in New Orleans. Previously senior curator at New York's New Museum of Contemporary Art, Cameron has announced plans to organize a citywide international contemporary-art biennial, similar to the one in Venice, to launch in New Orleans in October of next year.

TRANSITIONS

■ **Cara McCarty** is the new curatorial director of the Smithsonian Institution's **Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum** in New York. Formerly head of the decorative arts and design department at the Saint Louis Art Museum, McCarty replaces **Barbara Bloemink**, who was appointed deputy di-

rector of curatorial affairs at the Museum of Arts & Design in New York earlier this year.

■ **Joe Earle** has been named gallery director of the **Japan Society** in New York. Currently head of the Asian, Oceanic, and African art department at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Earle will join the Japan Society in September.

AWARDS

■ **Franklin Sirmans**, curator of modern and contemporary art at the Menil Collection in Houston, won this year's **David C. Driskell Prize**. Awarded by the **High Museum of Art** in Atlanta, the \$25,000 prize recognizes a scholar or artist who has made



Franklin Sirmans.

a contribution to African American art or art history.

■ **Ball-Nogues**, a Los Angeles-based architecture firm headed by **Benjamin Ball**

and **Gaston Nogues**, won the eighth annual **MoMA/P.S.1 Young Architects Program** with its design for *Liquid Sky*, an installation consisting of tinted Mylar petals. The duo received a \$70,000 project budget for their work, which will be unveiled in the courtyard of P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in Queens on the 21st of this month.

■ **The American Academy of Arts and Letters** has given this year's \$7,500 art awards to **Jackie Gendel**, **Julian Hatton**, **Bryan Hunt**, **Sarah**

Oppenheimer, and **Dana Schutz**. The organization also presented **Sally Hazelet Drummond** with the \$5,000 **Jimmy Ernst Award in Art** and **Juan Gomez** with the \$5,000 **Richard and Hilda Rosenthal Foundation Award**. In addition, the academy elected nine new members, including installation artist **Robert Irwin**.

OBITUARY

■ **Salvatore Scarpitta**, artist, 88. Born in Brooklyn and educated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, Scarpitta joined the United States Navy during World War II and helped recover art stolen by the Nazis. After the war he worked as an artist in Rome, then moved back to New York in 1958. A race-car owner and driver, he was best known for his sculptures of cars and sleds, often made with found materials.