



## Hilary Jay

### Senior Advisor

Hilary Jay is an award-winning curator, journalist, and entrepreneur.

### Experience

In 2015, she founded Blackbird Consultants and in past months worked with the City of Philadelphia, U.S. State Department, UNESCO and Drexel's Lindy Institute of Urban Innovation on a Creative Cities bid for Philadelphia. Over the past year, she consulted to Jefferson Healthcare Systems & University, Philadelphia Design District and internationally-regarded conservators Materials Conservation.

Jay is nationally known for founding the first American multi-day design festival, DesignPhiladelphia. The fair - established to demonstrate, promote, and support the ability that design has to generate innovation, solve problems, enhance daily life, and influence both the perception and economics of the region - began in 2005. In 2015, Jay sold DesignPhiladelphia to the Center for Architecture & Design which houses Philadelphia's American Institute of Architecture chapter.

During the decade prior, Jay wrote for national publications such as Art & Antiques, Modernism and I.D., among others; served as city editor for Metropolitan Home; and was a columnist for Philadelphia Magazine and The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday Magazine. At the Inquirer, Jay's column on art, design, landscape design, architecture, preservation, and the built environment ran on a weekly basis. Circulation was 1.4 million people.

In 1985, Jay co-founded Maximal Art, an international costume jewelry, watch, and home furnishings company marketed throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. The collection received substantial international press coverage and is profiled in several books: *Fabulous Fakes: The History of Fantasy & Fashion Jewelry*, published by Grafton Books, and *Jewels of Fantasy: Costume Jewelry of the 20th-Century*, published by Harry N. Abrams. Jay's jewelry and home furnishings are in the permanent collection of London's Victoria and Albert Museum, Musée des Arts Decoratifs in Paris, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Jay sold her share of the company to her partner in 1990 to pursue.

### Professional, Corporate, Civic Leadership

In 1988, Jay was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the National Association of Female Executives, and a decade later won the coveted Sunday Magazine Journalist Award. She is a past board member of COLLAB: professionals supporting design at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; Philadelphia Art Alliance; American Institute of Architecture, Philadelphia Chapter; and the Mayor's Board for Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy. She is presently an Advisor to the Delaware River Waterfront Commission's Art Board.

### Additional Experience

Jay has taught courses on professional practice and innovation at University of the Arts where she was a Senior Fellow before joining the Center for Architecture + Design as its first Director. During the first decade of this century, Jay headed The Design Center (TDC) at Philadelphia University, charged with positioning the institution to reflect the university's broadening design and technology curriculum. During her nine-year tenure, Jay curated numerous international exhibitions including *What Is Design Today?*, and *Lace in Translation*, groundbreaking shows supported by grants, sponsorship and international press.

## Areas of Expertise

Design and Arts  
Strategy

Policy and Assessment

Journalism

Marketing

## Education

BA in Sociology Magna  
Cum Laude,  
University of  
Pennsylvania

Certificate in Business  
Growth Development,  
University of  
Pennsylvania

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