



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MARY MCAVENEY TO SUCCEED MICHAEL JACOBS AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ABRAMS BOOKS**

**New York, NY [November 9, 2022]** – Mary McAveney has been appointed the new President and CEO of Abrams succeeding Michael Jacobs, who will step down after nineteen years with the company. Jacobs will assume the role of Executive Chair of the Board at Abrams and will remain on the board of Abrams & Chronicle Books in the UK. He will also serve in an advisory capacity to parent company Média-Participations and assist McAveney with the transition. McAveney officially assumes her role on November 28, 2022, making her the first female CEO in Abrams history. It also marks her return to the company—McAveney first joined Abrams in 1992 on the marketing and sales team.

With more than twenty-five years of experience in publishing, McAveney comes to Abrams from Open Road Integrated Media, where she was Chief Revenue Officer and Chief Marketing Officer. In her leadership roles across diverse disciplinary teams, she has inspired innovation at the strategic and operational levels to achieve revenue and EBITDA growth and was instrumental in Open Road's focus on data collection, direct-to-consumer relationships, and digital discovery. McAveney also oversaw acquisitions and spearheaded the purchase of commercial fiction publisher Bloodhound Books in 2021. Over the course of her extensive career in publishing, McAveney has held positions at Simon & Schuster, Zondervan, and HarperCollins, delivering campaigns for bestselling and beloved books and literary franchises for children and adults.

"I am delighted to be joining Abrams again," noted McAveney. "Coming back to one's roots evokes very poignant feelings. Michael's leadership of Abrams has set the bar high in the industry for so many years, and I am honored that he chose me to step into this role. I look forward to working with the incredibly dynamic, creative, and smart team at Abrams. Joining the company at a time when they are experiencing such tremendous success, with the prospect of even greater growth ahead, is incredibly exciting."

"Leading Abrams has been the culmination of my professional career," reflected Jacobs. "In my time here, we have experienced astounding growth in our publishing, our people, and our culture. For more than seventy years we've practiced and honed The Art of Books. Now, having added superb children's books (including the all-time bestselling middle-grade series *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*), graphic novels and comic arts, and adult narrative nonfiction and fiction to our long-established program of impeccable illustrated books, we have greatly expanded our publishing portfolio.

"Most of all, I'm proud of how our company and its culture have thrived, even in the last few difficult pandemic years. This period has been transformative, and it's been my pleasure and privilege to have worked with the dedicated and passionate people who make this place unique. The next steps in our evolution—both commercially and artistically—are still to be taken, and now is the perfect moment for Mary McAveney to help lead us into this phase of our growth. Along with my talented colleagues here at Abrams, I'm thrilled to welcome her."

### **About ABRAMS**

Founded in 1949, ABRAMS was the first company in the United States to specialize in publishing art and illustrated books. The company continues to publish critically acclaimed and bestselling works in the areas of art, photography, cooking, craft, comics, interior and garden design, entertainment, fashion, and popular culture as well as narrative nonfiction and new works of fiction for adults; children's books ranging from middle grade to young adult fiction to

picture books to board books. ABRAMS creates and distributes brilliantly designed books with the highest production values under the following imprints: Abrams; Abrams ComicArts; Megascope; Surely Books; Abrams Image; Abrams Press; The Overlook Press; Cernunnos; Cameron + Company; Abrams Books for Young Readers; Amulet Books; Abrams Appleseed; and Magic Cat. ABRAMS also distributes books for Booth-Clibborn Editions, Bungie, Alain Ducasse Édition, Éditions de La Martinière, Editions BPI, Global Golf Group, Lucky Spool, Milky Way Picture Books, The Museum of Modern Art, SelfMadeHero, Skittledog, Tate Publishing, V&A Publishing, and The Vendome Press.

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