

# THE STATE OF NEW YORK PAINTING

WORKS OF INTIMATE SCALE BY 26 COLORISTS



**Cover:**

**Frances Barth**

*Big Pink* [Detail], 2016

Acrylic on gesso / wood panel

24 x 30 x 1 ½ inches (60.9 x 76.2 x 3.8 cm)

Collection of the artist

THE STATE OF NEW YORK PAINTING

WORKS OF INTIMATE SCALE BY 26 COLORISTS

CURATED BY MICHAEL WALLS

**KINGSBOROUGH ART MUSEUM**

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

This catalogue coincides with *The State of New York Painting: Works of Intimate Scale by 26 Colorists*, an exhibition organized by the Kingsborough Art Museum, CUNY. The exhibition was on view from March 6—April 5, 2017.

Curated by Michael Walls

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The Kingsborough Art Museum  
Kingsborough Community College  
The City University of New York  
Brian E. Hack, Director  
Jose Arenas, Art Department Chair  
[www.kccartmuseum.org](http://www.kccartmuseum.org)

## **Acknowledgements**

The Kingsborough Art Museum thanks for the following for their invaluable assistance during the creation, installation, and promotion of this exhibition: Michael Walls; John Descarfino; Frances Barth; Mr. Francis Greenberger, and The Jewish Communal Fund; Molly Slattery and Huntington T. Block, Inc.; David Gyscek and Gordon Curtis, Fred Worden Trucking, Inc.; Alexandre Gallery; The Drawing Room; Pace Gallery; Peter Blum Gallery; Sikkema Jenkins Gallery; Lisson Gallery; Betty Cuningham Gallery; Peter Freeman Gallery; The New Museum of Contemporary Art; Maria Patestas, Student Life; Thomas Brzozowski; The Buildings and Grounds Department; James Weaver; Michael Goldstein; The Purchasing and Property Departments; Kim Sanchez; Cathy Galeano; Rachel Perez; Rafael De Marco Teixeira; President Farley Herzek; Jose Arenas; and Caterina Y. Pierre.

*This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Edward Albee (1928 -2016)*

## Curator's Notes

**M**y favorite areas of investigation in the visual arts have been—for decades—drawing and painting, as well as the myriad ways in which these two ages-old activities/disciplines interact.

As the most concentrated and influential center for the visual arts transferred from Paris to New York City amidst the rise of fascism in Europe and the horrors of World War II, the community in New York continued its evolution to the metropolitan area into which many of America's most adventuresome visual artists wanted to put down roots and to enter the dialogue on Modernism.

With the rapid development of the digital age and young artists' astonishingly broad and inventive adoption of new systems, tools, and technology,

not only is the hegemony of New York City as the center of creativity in the visual arts somewhat diminished, but also many interested persons have come to regard drawing—and even more so painting—as increasingly less influential investigations.

In confronting this issue, I believe it presents an opportunity to *celebrate* the works of artists in New York City and throughout The Empire State. To even begin to do justice to the riches available could involve two hundred or more individuals. Despite my focusing on living artists, the major portion of whose oeuvre has been produced in New York as a relatively active member of one or more of its communities, my quest is daunting and especially so if the logistics of the enterprise are such that its curator is limited to the inclusion of fewer than thirty artists.

In dealing with my inadequacies and risking disappointments for artists I respect, I am stepping even closer to a precipice in taking a broad view of *painting* as not being limited to the application of traditional mediums on a flat surface, but rather also embracing a number of artists whose investigations include applying glazes to ceramic objects, or paint to a wood or metal construction, or employing “found” color in the form of collage elements of paper or patterned fabric—or using colored thread or other linear elements.

In closing, I want to make clear my profound belief that the ultimate requirement for an artist to create works which have a chance of withstanding the passage of time is success in “finding one’s own voice” as an artist. For those whose energy, industriousness, ambition, temperament, curiosity—and good fortune!—lead to the development

of a signature iconography and a palpable spirit which establish and buoy the artist’s reputation, perhaps of equal importance is the practice of constantly testing and challenging oneself, rather than fearing the loss of a hard won perch in the so-called “art world,” and thereby risking repetitiveness and the loss of freshness. With few exceptions, the artists I most admire tend to forge ahead, exploring new imagery, changes of scale, working materials—even attempting working simultaneously in two disciplines (for example, painting and cinema, or sculpture and performance art).

Michael Walls  
Guest Curator  
4 April 2016  
New York

## Director's Welcome

The Kingsborough Art Museum is pleased to bring *The State of New York Painting* to the college and local communities. Curated by Michael Walls, this exhibition explores the wondrous range of painting styles within the Empire State as expressed by some of the medium's leading figures.

*The State of New York Painting* is a reference to an 1972 exhibition Michael Walls curated entitled *The State of California Painting*. For this updated examination of the nation's opposite shore, Walls has chosen an array of artists that includes Alex Katz, Lois Dodd, Stanley Whitney, Frances Barth, Rackstraw Downes, Catherine Murphy, Martin Puryear, and twenty other notable artists; while the roster may push the boundaries of the exhibi-

tion's subtitle, *Works of intimate scale by 26 colorists*, it nevertheless presents an overview of painting—and painted sculpture and ceramics—that once again dispels the perennial, and perpetually spurious, assertion that *painting is dead*.

How can an activity so tethered to the development of the human mind and spirit as painting—created in the deepest crevices of Paleolithic caves—ever be eternally interred? It is a trajectory that defies the digital whims of Williamsburg wonderkinder. There is something primeval about paint, a romantic mix of alchemy and allegory that continues to speak to us in our most human moments. I welcome you to find that essence of humanity in *The State of New York Painting*.

Brian E. Hack  
Director





# Alex Katz

(American, b. 1927, Brooklyn, NY)

*Grey Linden #IV*, 2001

Oil on board

12 x 9 inches (30.5 x 22.9 cm)

Courtesy of Peter Blum Gallery, New York



# Lois Dodd

(American, b. 1927, Montclair, NJ)

*Moon and Doorlight*, 2012

Oil on Masonite

11 x 16 inches (27.9 x 40.6 cm)

Lent by Alexandre Gallery, New York



# Rackstraw Downes

(American, born England, 1939)

*Below the Hospital Complex at  
168<sup>th</sup> Street, 2012*

Oil on canvas

11 x 23 inches (27.94 x 58.42 cm)

Lent by Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York



# Catherine Murphy

(American, b. 1946, Cambridge, MA)

*Knot 7*, 2009

Oil on canvas on board

14 x 18 inches (35.5 x 45.7 cm)

Lent by Peter Freeman, Inc., New York





# Thomas Nozkowski

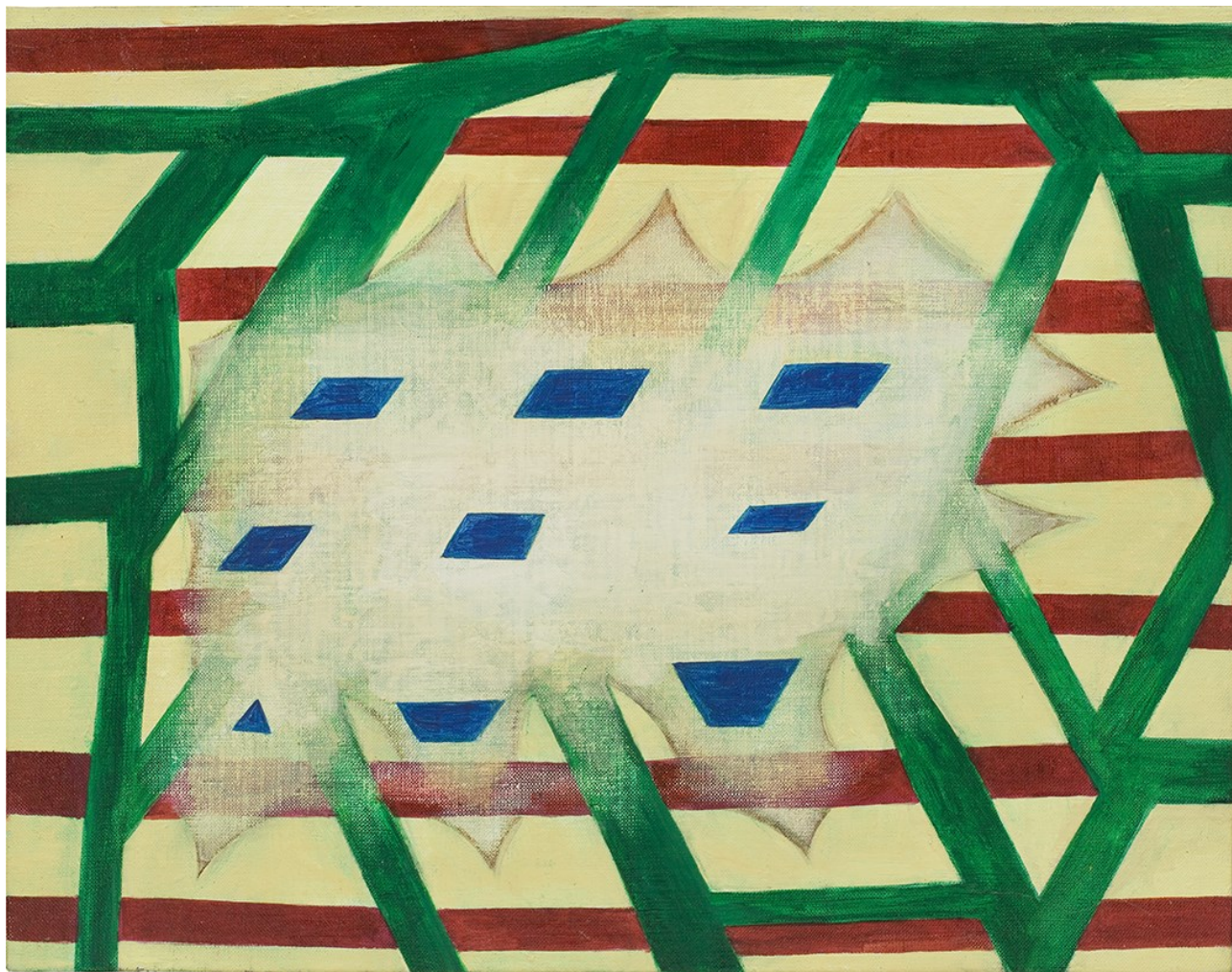
(American, b. 1944, Teaneck, NJ)

*Untitled (7-76)*, 1995

Oil on linen on panel

16 x 20 inches (40.6 x 50.8 cm)

Lent by Pace Gallery LLC, New York



# Gary Stephan

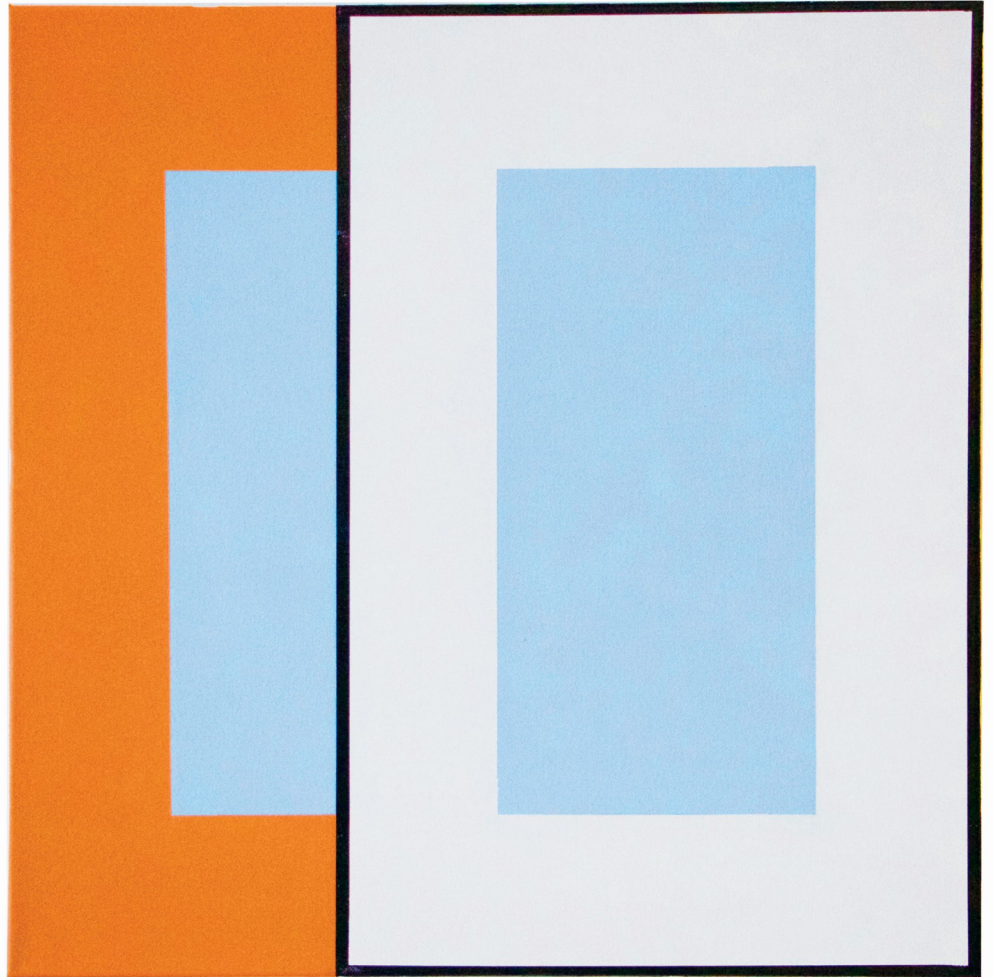
(American, b. 1942, Brooklyn, NY)

*The Future of Reading 5*, 2016

Acrylic on canvas

20 x 20 inches (50.8 cm square)

Collection of the Artist



# Stephen Westfall

(American, b. 1953, Schenectady, NY)

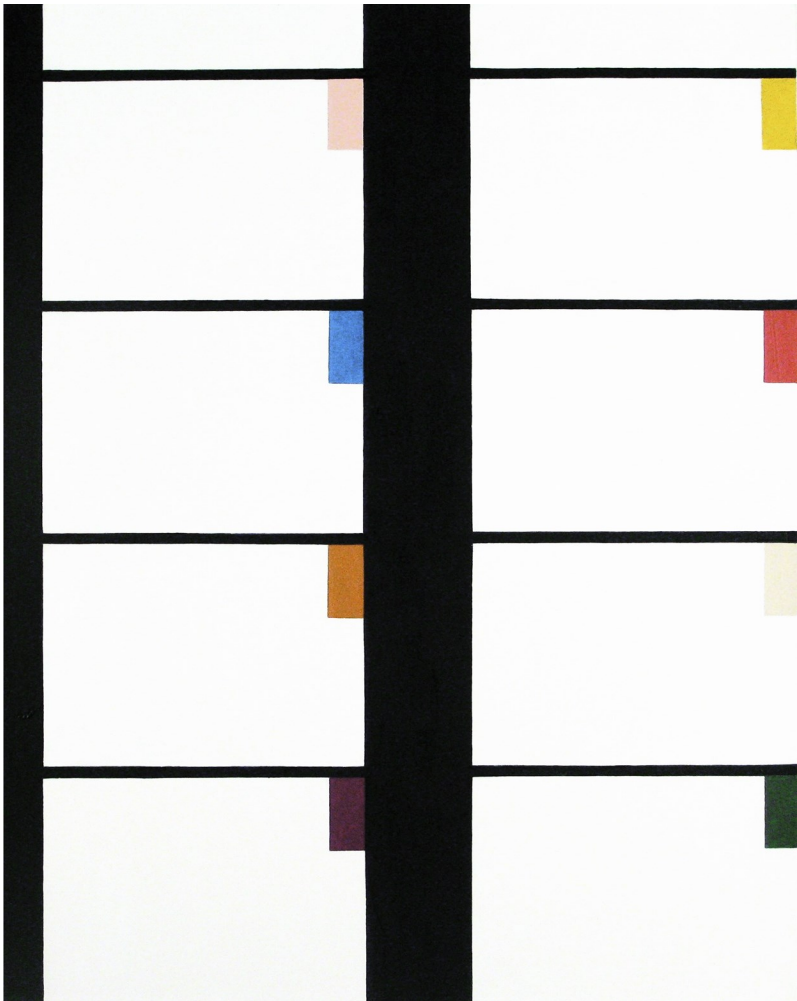
*Passenger*, 2008

Oil on canvas

28 ¼ x 22 ½ inches (71.7 x 57.1 cm)

Private Collection at Momiji,

Ulster County, New York



# John Descarfino

(American, b. 1965)

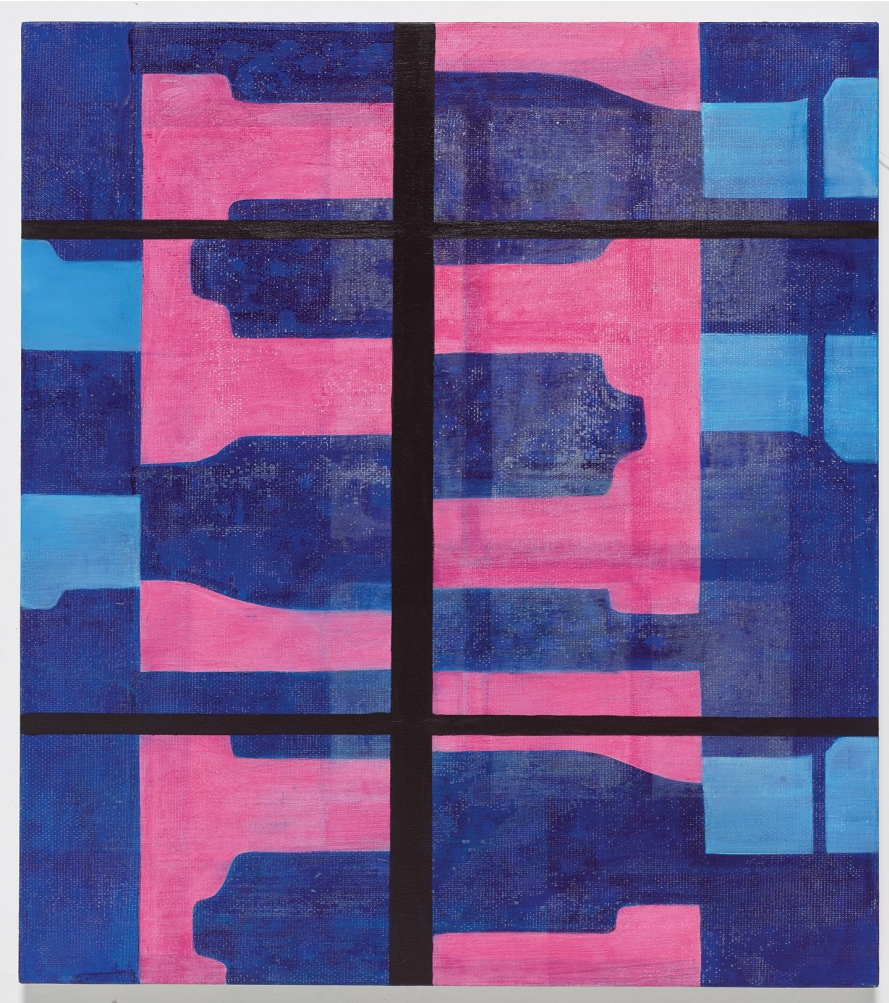
*Night Window (7)*, 2016

Acrylic on canvas

27 x 24 inches (68.58 x 60.96 cm)

Collection of the artist





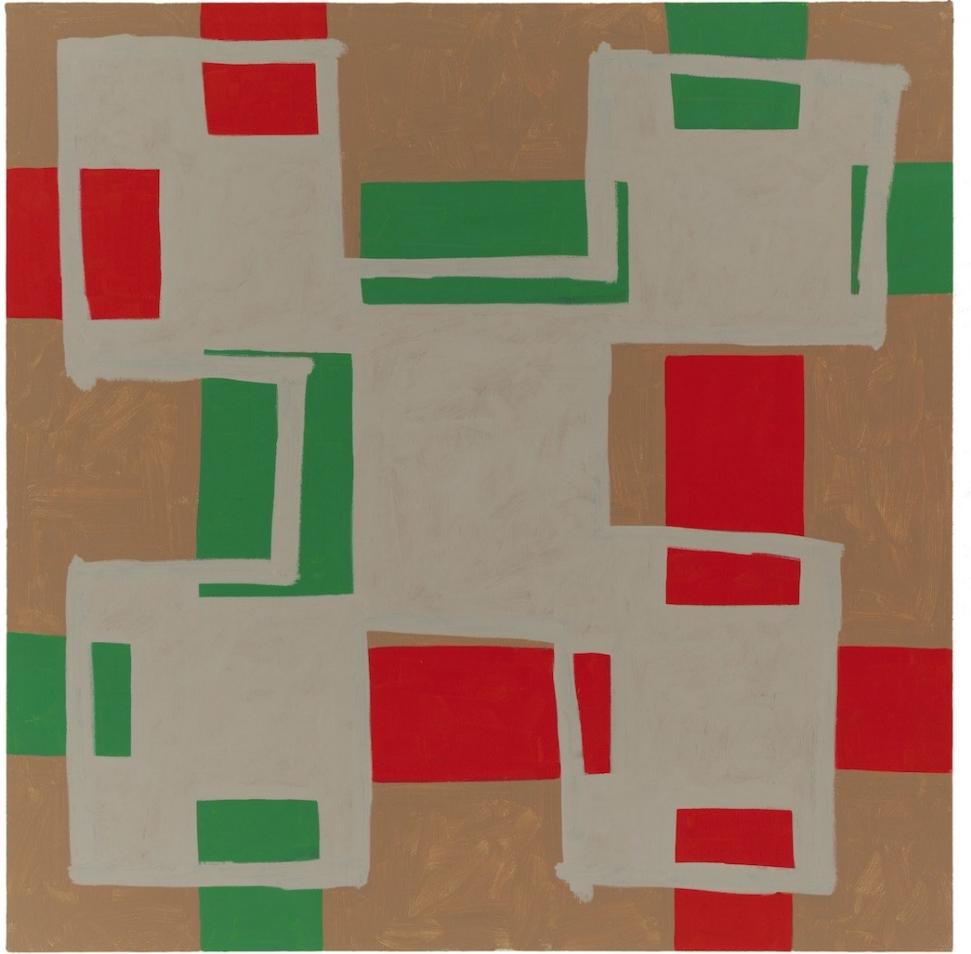
# **Bettina Blohm**

**(American, b. Germany, 1961)**

*Syncopation*, 2015

36 x 36 inches (91.4 cm square)

Collection of the artist



# Rex Lau

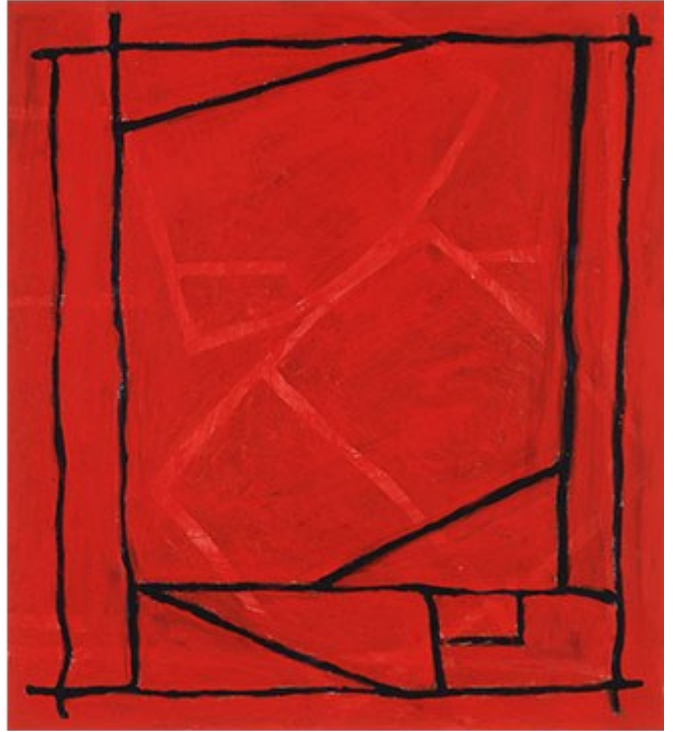
(American, b. 1947)

*Untitled*, 2014

Oil on wood

13  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 12 inches (33.6 x 30.4 cm)

Collection of the artist, courtesy of  
The Drawing Room, East Hampton, NY



# Stanley Whitney

(American, b. 1946, Philadelphia, PA)

*Four works, each  
identified as follows:*

*Untitled, 2016*

Oil on linen

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

Lent by Lisson Gallery, New York













# Brenda Goodman

(American, b. 1944, Detroit, MI)

*Self-Portrait #59*, 2006

Oil on wood

36 x 30 inches (91.4 x 76.2 cm)

Collection of the artist



# Frances Barth

(American, b. 1946, The Bronx, New York)

*Big Pink*, 2016

Acrylic on gesso / wood panel

24 x 30 x 1 1/2 inches (60.9 x 76.2 x 3.8 cm)

Collection of the artist



# Woong Kim

(American, b. Korea 1944)

*Untitled*, 2015-17

Oil on canvas

30 x 30 inches (76.2 cm square)

Collection of the artist.





# Diane Mayo

(American, b. 1948)

*Untitled*, 2016

Glazed ceramic

14 ½ x 6 ½ x 6 ½ inches (26.8 x 16.5 cm)

Collection of the artist, courtesy of  
The Drawing Room, East Hampton, NY.



# James Siena

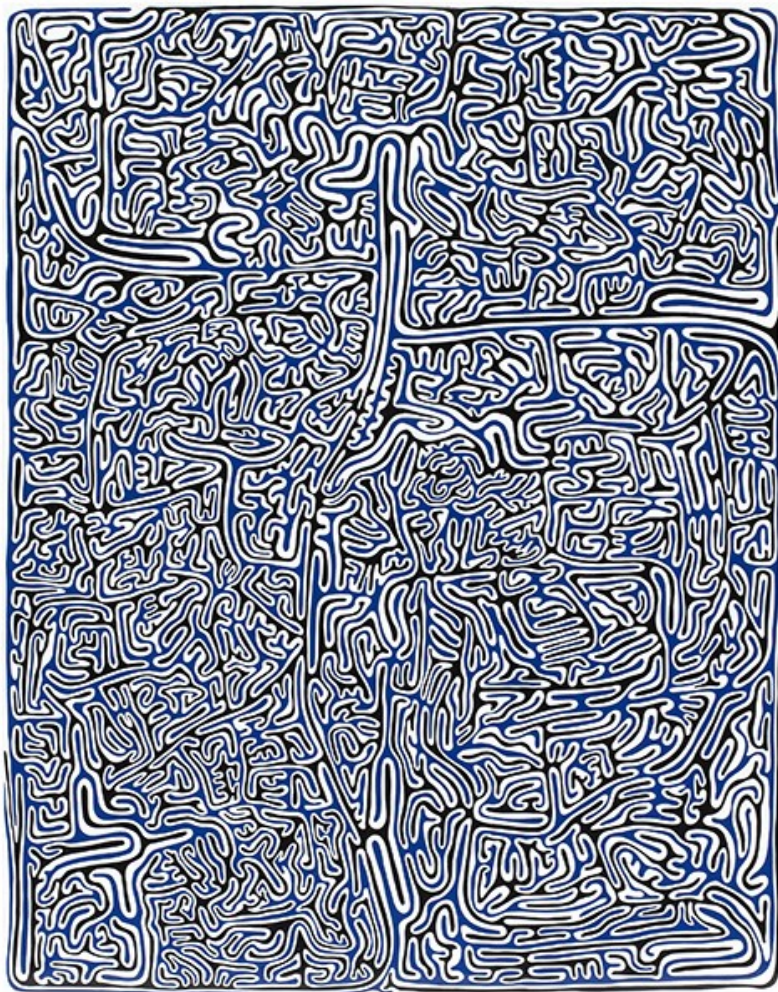
(American, b. 1957, Oceanside, CA)

*Two Scrambled Combs*, 2008

Enamel on aluminum

19 1/4 x 15 1/8 inches (48.9 x 38.4 cm)

Lent by Pace Gallery LLC, New York



# Martin Puryear

(American, b. 1941, Washington D.C.)

*One Handed Stool*, 2015

Pine and maple with steel rod spine, lathe turned by hand. Finished with milk paint or Japan Color, hand painted in several color layers/patterns, and hand rubbed.

14 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 14 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"

Edition of 4/25 numbered with 10 Artist Proofs, numbered, dated and signed by the artist. Produced by Lisa Ivorian-Jones for the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York.

Photography courtesy of Jesse Untracht-Oakner.



# David Hornung

(American, b. 1950)

*Red Star*, 2016

Acrylic gouache on linen on panel

15 15/16 x 11 15/16 inches (40.5 x 30.4 cm)

Collection of the artist





# Joanne Greenbaum

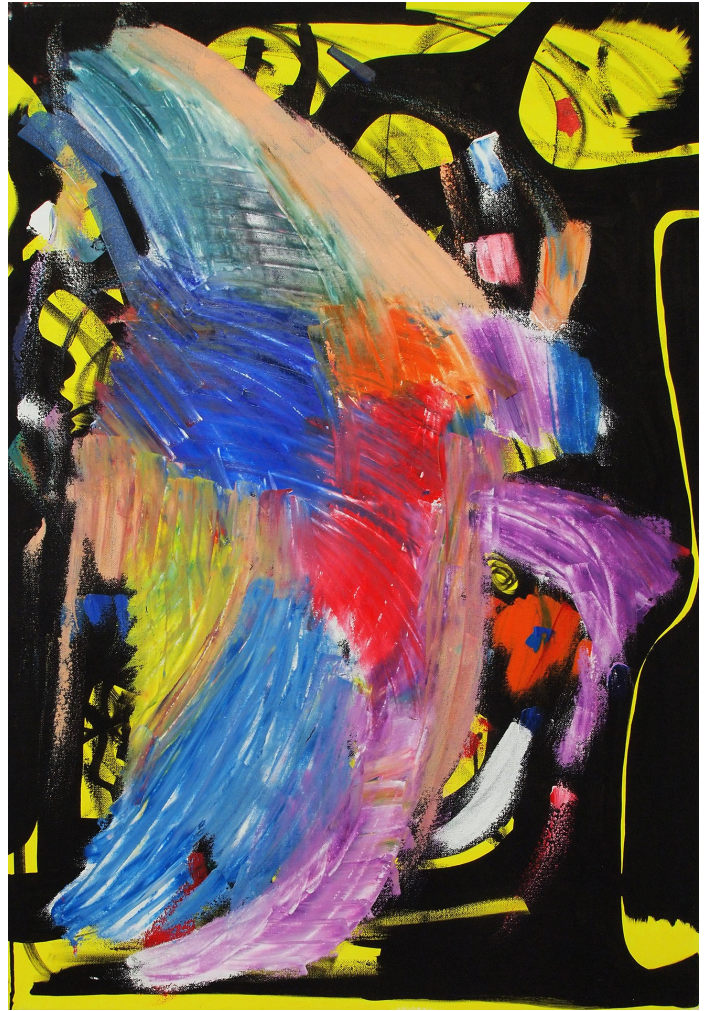
(American, b. 1953, New York, NY)

*Untitled*, 2017

Oil, acrylic and Flashe on canvas

36 x 24 1/4 inches (91.4 x 61.59 cm)

Lent by Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York



# Arlene Shechet

(American, b. 1951, New York, NY)

*Hunky-Dory*, 2016

Glazed ceramic and painted wood

52 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 13 x 11 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (81.2 x 33 x 29.2 cm)

Lent by Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York



## Exhibition Checklist

### Frances Barth

*Big Pink*, 2016

Acrylic on gesso / wood panel

24 x 30 x 1 ½ inches (60.9 x 76.2 x 3.8 cm)

Lent by the artist

### Bettina Blohm

*Syncopation*, 2015

36 x 36 inches (91.4 cm square)

Lent by the artist

### Ken Buhler

*Shakespeare's Garden #9*, 2014

Watercolor on Rives BFK paper.

30 x 22 inches (76.2 x 55.8 cm)

Collection of the artist, and courtesy  
of Lesley Heller Workspace, NY

### John Descarfino

*Night Window (7)*, 2016

Acrylic on canvas

27 x 24 inches (68.58 x 60.96 cm)

Lent by the artist

### Lois Dodd

*Moon and Doorlight*, 2012

Oil on Masonite

11 x 16 inches (27.9 x 40.6 cm)

Lent by Alexandre Gallery, New York

### Rackstraw Downes

*Below the Hospital Complex at*

*168<sup>th</sup> Street*, 2012

Oil on canvas

11 x 23 inches (27.94 x 58.42 cm)

Lent by Betty Cuningham Gallery

### Brenda Goodman

*Self-Portrait #59*, 2006

Oil on wood

36 x 30 inches (91.4 x 76.2 cm)

Lent by the artist

### Joanne Greenbaum

*Untitled*, 2017

Oil, acrylic and Flashe on canvas

36 x 24 ¼ inches (91.4 x 61.59 cm)

Lent by Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York,

### David Hornung

*Red Star*, 2016

Acrylic gouache on linen on panel

15 15/16 x 11 15/16 inches (40.5 x 30.4 cm)

Lent by the artist

**Sharon Horvath**

*t-zero*, 2016

Pigment, polymer, and ink on paper  
mounted on canvas

20 x 24 inches (50.8 x 60.9 cm)

Lent by the artist

**Alex Katz**

*Grey Linden #IV*, 2001

Oil on board

12 x 9 inches (30.5 x 22.9 cm)

Lent by Peter Blum Gallery, New York

**Woong Kim**

*Untitled*, 2015-17

Oil on canvas

30 x 30 inches (76.2 cm square)

Lent by the artist

**Alan Kleiman**

*Untitled*, c. 2009

Oil on canvas

24 x 24 inches (60.9 cm square)

Private Collection at Momiji,  
Ulster County, New York

**Rex Lau**

*Untitled*

Oil on wood

13 ¼ x 12 inches (33.6 x 30.4 cm)

Lent by the artist, courtesy of

The Drawing Room, East Hampton, NY

**Diane Mayo**

*Untitled*, 2016

Glazed ceramic

14 ½ x 6 ½ x 6 ½ inches (26.8 x 16.5 cm)

Lent by the artist, courtesy of

The Drawing Room, East Hampton, NY

**Catherine Murphy**

*Knot 2*, 2008

Oil on canvas on board

16 x 19 7/8 inches (40.6 x 50.5 cm)

Lent by Peter Freeman, Inc.

*Knot 7*, 2009

Oil on canvas on board

14 x 18 inches (35.5 x 45.7 cm)

Lent by Peter Freeman, Inc.

*Knot 9*, 2009

**Oil on canvas on board**

14 x 18 inches (35.5 x 45.7 cm)

Lent by Peter Freeman, Inc.

**Thomas Nozkowski**

*Untitled (7-76)*, 1995

Oil on linen on panel

16 x 20 inches (40.6 x 50.8 cm)

Lent by Pace Gallery LLC, New York

**Martin Puryear**

*One Handed Stool*, 2015

Pine and maple w/steel rod spine,

lathe turned by hand, Number 4/25

Lent by The New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY

*One Handed Stool*, 2015

Pine and maple w/steel rod spine,

lathe turned by hand, Number 7/25

Lent by The New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY

**Arlene Shechet**

*Hunky-Dory*, 2016

Glazed ceramic and painted wood

52 ¾ x 13 x 11 ½ inches (81.2 x 33 x 29.2 cm)

Lent by Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York

**James Siena**

*Two Scrambled Combs*, 2008

Enamel on aluminum

19 ¼ x 15 1/8 inches (48.9 x 38.4 cm)

Lent by Pace Gallery LLC, New York

**Joan Snyder**

*Summer Painter*, 1994

Oil, papier-mâché, and wooden  
dowels on linen

17 x 20 inches (43.1 x 50.8 cm)

Lent by the artist

**Gary Stephan**

*The Future of Reading 5*, 2016

Acrylic on canvas

20 x 20 inches (50.8 square)

Lent by the Artist

**Patricia Treib**

*Untitled*, c.2012

Charcoal and pastel on rag paper

15 5/8 x 11 9/16 inches (39.6 x 28.5 cm)

Private Collection at Momiji,

Ulster County, New York

**Martin Weinstein**

*Dahlia's, Evening*, 2011

Acrylic on multiple acrylic sheets

13 x 10 inches (33 x 25.4 cm)

Private collection at Momiji,

Ulster County, New York



**Stephen Westfall**

Passenger, 2008

Oil on canvas

28 ¼ x 22 ½ inches (71.7 x 57.1 cm)

Private Collection at Momiji,

Ulster County, New York

**Stanley Whitney**

*Untitled*, 2016 [WHIT160050]

Oil on linen

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

Lent by Lisson Gallery, New York

*Untitled*, 2016 [WHIT160054]

Oil on linen

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

Lent by Lisson Gallery, New York

*Untitled*, 2016 [WHIT160055]

Oil on linen

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

Lent by Lisson Gallery, New York

*Untitled*, 2016 [WHIT160057]

Oil on linen

12 x 12 inches (30.5 x 30.5 cm)

Lent by Lisson Gallery, New York.

# Installation views

## **Kingsborough Art Museum**

Kingsborough Community College

The City University of New York

Brooklyn, New York

March 6—April 5, 2017





Small white informational sign on a black stand, located at the base of the white pedestal.

Small white informational sign on the wall, positioned to the right of the first painting.

Small white informational sign on the wall, positioned to the right of the large grid painting.

Small white informational sign on the wall, positioned to the right of the red painting.

Small white informational sign on the wall, positioned to the right of the colorful grid painting.



The Kingsborough Art Museum gratefully thanks the galleries, museums,  
and artists who graciously lent works from their collections for this exhibition.



The logo for Kingsborough Art Museum (KAM) features the letters 'K', 'A', and 'M' in a stylized, bold font. The 'K' is red, the 'A' is yellow, and the 'M' is dark blue. Below the letters, the full name 'KINGSBOROUGH ART MUSEUM' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

**KAM**  
KINGSBOROUGH ART MUSEUM