

ALEXANDRA FANNING

ART PUBLICITY, COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENTS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York Studio School Announces its upcoming 2017 Alumni Exhibition with juror curators including Hauser & Wirth, Elizabeth Dee, and Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects

**OPENING RECEPTION & AWARDS NIGHT: THURSDAY JULY 27 2017
6PM**

LOCATION: 8 W 8TH ST, New York New York

Honored Artists:

Nick Carone
Paul Georges
Philip Guston
Hans Hofmann
Mercedes Matter
George McNeil
Ruth Miller
Alice Neel
Philip Pearlstein
Milton Resnick

Exhibition Juror Curators:

Florence Lynch of Elizabeth Dee Gallery, Anders Bergstrom of Hauser & Wirth, and Steven Harvey of Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects and Jennifer Samet of Eric Firestone Gallery

Mercedes Matter / Ambassador Middendorf Awards Committee:

Walter Robinson, Irving Sandler and Robert Storr

The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Exhibition on view July 27 - August 27, 2017

{New York, NY, June 24, 2017} – The New York Studio School is pleased to announce its 2017 Alumni Exhibition, on view July 27 to August 27, 2017. This year's exhibition has been juried and then curated by Florence Lynch of *Elizabeth Dee Gallery*, Anders Bergstrom of *Hauser & Wirth*, Steven Harvey of *Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects* and Jennifer Samet of *Eric Firestone Gallery*. The exhibition will commence with an **opening reception and awards night on July 27, from 6PM-8PM at the New York Studio School (NYSS) located at 8 W. 8th St, New York, NY.**

This year, the event will honor a list of artists who have taught at or influenced the school. These include such influential names as Philip Guston, Alice Neel, Milton Resnick, Nick Carone, Paul Georges, Hans Hofmann, Mercedes Matter, George McNeil, Ruth Miller, Philip Pearlstein; and there will be a selection of pieces on view from each. Alao, Elizabeth Dee Gallery, Hauser & Wirth, and Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects were asked to curate a selection of work submitted by New York Studio School Alumni, each will be presented in its own gallery space as a group show and pieces will be available throughout the exhibition.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About New York Studio School

In September of 1963, an article appeared in *ARTnews* penned by painter and educator Mercedes Matter. It gave voice to the grievance of many art students who felt frustrated by the frantic pace and fragmented courses offered by current contemporary art education. It criticized art education for what it had become, contrasting it with the character of what academies of fine arts and artists' ateliers had been. The article had the effect on her students of galvanizing them to create a school themselves, if she would help them. She agreed, and together they founded the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture. For the faculty, the students chose the artists whom they had admired as instructors; Matter enlisted the artists of exceptional quality whom she knew to be sympathetic. Mercedes article can be viewed [HERE](#).

The School opened on September 23rd, 1964 with a student body of sixty selected students who had responded to the call of a new approach to art education. The original space, a loft on Broadway, had itself had been found by the students, under the leadership of Marc Zimetbaum. The students realized that during the first week, they had spent more hours working as artists at the School than in an entire semester at another institution. This was to be the character of the New York Studio School: daily continuity of study through work in the studio, and access to a great faculty. In its second year, the need for more space became apparent. An ideal location on Eighth Street, which had comprised the original Whitney Museum of American Art, became available.

The current dean, the painter Graham Nickson, believes in strong advocacy for an artist's unique sensibility developed through a disciplined studio practice, along with programs like the renowned Evening Lecture Series, the Drawing Marathons, and the Masters and Certificate programs, which have become synonymous with the present day School.

About Mercedes Matter

Perhaps best known today as the founder of the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, Mercedes Matter was a powerful presence on the New York art scene. Matter wrote tirelessly about art, artists and art education; and the core of her vision in founding the school can be found in a 1963 article that appeared in *ARTnews*. Matter also taught art in New York and Philadelphia and painted throughout her life. She was profoundly influenced by the abstract expressionists, was a founding member of "The Club", and acquired a lifelong passion for drawing still life with bold, varied colors.

About Ambassador Middendorf

Ambassador Middendorf has studied art at the Art Students League, The NY Studio School, and The Fogg Museum at Harvard University where he matriculated. In addition to a storied career in business and government service (serving as Secretary of the Navy and Ambassador to the Netherlands, among other posts) he has long been a supporter of the arts. He was a long time friend and supporter of Edward Hopper, and was the Founding Chair of the Friends of the American Wing at the Metropolitan Museum. A former board member of the Metropolitan and Baltimore Museums, he is currently on the acquisition committees of the Met as well as the Boston Museum and a prolific composer of symphonies which have been performed by the National Symphony, Boston Pops, and the St. Louis Symphony.

Alumni Association Co-Chairs - Larry Greenberg and Michael Tcheyan

Steering Committee - Whit Conrad, Catherine Copeland, Yael Dresdner, Glenn Goldberg, Elena Sisto

Selected Previous Press: [Forbes](#), [Hyperallergic](#), [Artnet News](#), [Artnet news](#), [6sqFt](#), [NY1 \(Television Spot\)](#), [Blouin Artinfo](#).

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