

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

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Wednesday, January 29, 2025

It is with much emotion that I write to inform you that Graham Nickson, Dean of the New York Studio School for 36 years, died peacefully at his home yesterday.

The Board of Trustees gratefully recognizes the power of Graham's transformational leadership. His vision—as an artist, a teacher, and a leader—has had a profound impact on thousands of students who have found their path as lifelong artists. Under his leadership, New York Studio School has become an important cultural and educational center, with a community that extends far beyond New York City.

Graham created the now-world-renowned Drawing Marathons, and his stewardship of the School's Evening Lecture Series brought a wide range of voices from the art world to our community. During his tenure, he established the School's MFA degree. Graham curated important exhibitions in the School's Gallery and championed the creation of our extensive library and its entry into the digital age. Most recently, he taught extensively in the Virtual Certificate program, expanding the School's national and international reach.

Throughout his tenure as Dean, Graham tended to his studio practice and had many notable exhibitions including the recent retrospective "Graham Nickson, Time in its Place" that featured work from 1972 to 2024. As a painter, Nickson received the highest accolades including the Prix de Rome, the Harkness Fellowship at Yale University, and a Guggenheim Fellowship among many others.

As an educator, Graham's tremendous optimism and belief in the power of art to change one's life guided his stewardship of the School. We are grateful for the unwavering commitment Graham has made to the New York Studio School over his lifetime, and will continue to honor his legacy as we move forward into our next chapter.

Sincerely,

F. Anthony Zunino III
Chair, Board of Trustees