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**Nassau Museum Spotlights Heroines of American Art
Twentieth-Century Masterworks by the “9th Street Women”
Curated by internationally renowned art collectors Rick Friedman and Cindy Lou Wakefield**



Roslyn Harbor, NY November, 2020

A major private collection of important paintings and drawings by the “9thStreet Women” is the focal point of *Heroines of American Art: From Abstract Expressionism to Today*, opening at the Nassau Museum on July 18. An entire Twentieth-century survey of art by women is anchored by the remarkable group of Abstract Expressionists (the “9th Street Women” who are the subject of Mary Gabriel’s acclaimed book, soon to be an Amazon TV series) which has already drawn crowds at the Fenimore Museum. It will be supplemented selections from a range of galleries and collections, concluding with many of the greatest artists of our own time. The major statement of a show entirely of women artists comes at a time when museums around the globe are making a huge effort to redress the historical balance in favor of including more women in their permanent collections and shows.

Until now, Abstract Expressionism is customarily presented as a roll call of male art stars, but this exhibition, drawn from the Rick Friedman collection and co-curated with Cindy Lou Wakefield, focuses on work by Lee Krasner, Elaine De Kooning, Perle Fine, Joan Mitchell, Hedda Sterne (the only woman in the famous 1951 *Irascibles* group portrait), Louise Nevelson and many others, all of them overdue for recognition of this magnitude. Among the show’s highlights are Lee Krasner’s glowing *September Twenty-Third* (1980) and an important group of works by her friend Elaine de Kooning.



Lee Krasner, *September 23* (1980).

Guest curators Rick Friedman and Cindy Lou Wakefield are an internationally renowned team whose art fairs and museum exhibitions have been seen by thousands and widely reviewed in the arts press. The story of how they met “over coffee and Jackson Pollock” was the unforgettable hook to a New York Times double profile. He created the most prestigious of the art fairs in the Hamptons as well as other venues. She was a writer and researcher at the Pollock-Krasner House.



Cindy Lou Wakefield and Rick Friedman



Installation shot from Fenimore Museum

Other Upcoming Exhibitions

Our Gilded Age: Long Island's Decade of Change

At the turn of the 20th century, a booming economy and brilliant generation of artists converged to shape American aesthetics when the nation was finally, after years of strife, ready for the finer things in life. Among the painters and sculptors of the era who re-defined America's role in the international art world, the exhibition will include works by Thomas Dewing (including a portrait of Mrs. Bryce), Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Childe Hassam, John Henry Twachtman, Maurice Prendergast, Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. Our own Louis Comfort Tiffany collection will make a strong gallery. Together with essential examples of design, fashion and architecture from the period, the visual riches of the era will come to life in the setting of a quintessential Gilded Age mansion, designed for the Bryce family by Ogden Codman, who along with Stanford White (also in the exhibition) was a leading light of the architecture in the period. Jean Henning is preparing a revelatory "staged" gallery on the life of the workers on the Frick estate, a "Downton Abbey" style portrait of the "below-stairs" to complement the portraits of the American plutocrats. Drawing heavily upon local history, including William Cullen Bryant (who created our walking trails and wrote about them extensively), Walt Whitman, Edith Wharton (co-author with Ogden Codman, the architect of our building) among others, the exhibition will include literary memorabilia as gathered by guest curator Peter West, an expert in the period. As Twain wrote in his novel *The Gilded Age*: "To the young American, here or elsewhere, the paths to fortune are innumerable and all open; there is invitation in the air and success in all his wide horizon."

Guest curator: Peter West, Provost, Adelphi University (pro bono)

Music in Art

From ancient times, in all cultures, the enjoyment of music has been a great subject for painting and sculpture. This comprehensive historical survey includes artifacts (including instruments) as well as "brand name" artists depicting the making of music, including Old Masters, nineteenth century realists from Europe and America, Modern masters including Chagall and Matisse, and contemporary artists inspired by music such as Caio Fonseca (a Bach expert as well who could play a concert), Julian Schnabel, Adrian Nivola, scrolls and ceramics from Asian cultures depicting court musicians, musical scores from the NYPL and Juilliard collections, autographs and music posters.

The Door into the Dark: Supernatural Beings in Art

Painters and sculptors have long been bewitched by the otherworldly realms of fantasy, legends, ghosts (the master is Henry Fuseli, whose prints are readily available) and monsters. Gothic art, architecture and literature hold an inescapable appeal. The Morgan Library recently featured different artists' interpretations of the story of Frankenstein and there are similar troves of paintings and illustrations related to JRR Tolkien, who painted watercolors, as well as Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear. Many of the most important works are at the Morgan Library, but monsters are a big part of contemporary art, including the work of Jake and Dinos Chapman, Tony Oursler, Carroll Dunham, Barry Moser.

Nassau County Museum of Art is located at One Museum Drive in Roslyn Harbor. The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (62 and above) and \$5 for students and children (4 to 12). Media Contact: Charles Riley, (516) 484-9338 x 37, criley@nassaumuseum.org

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