

NASSAU COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

Meet the new Artist-in-Residence: FRANK OLT

The acclaimed New York artist will open his studio to visitors and invite them to learn about his process, intersecting ceramics, painting, and mixed media.



October 22, 2026; Roslyn Harbor, NY — The Nassau County Museum of Art (NCMA) is delighted to welcome Frank Olt as its new Artist-in-Residence, inviting visitors to learn about the creative process of an artist whose work bridges ceramics, painting, and mixed media. Drawing on the legacy of the New York School while embracing centuries-old ceramic traditions, Olt creates richly textured abstract compositions that unite glazed ceramic forms with the luminous colors and layered surfaces of encaustic painting. Often evoking horizons, suns, clouds, architectural fragments, and the natural world, his work explores the interplay of material, color, light, and form. During his residency, Olt will host open studio sessions, offering visitors opportunities to meet the artist, explore his techniques, and gain insight into the experimentation that shapes his work.

“It gives me great pleasure to welcome world-renowned ceramicist and professor at LIU as Artist-in-Residency to the Nassau County Museum of Art. His master skills in ceramics and teaching art are the perfect complement to the programming in our Manes Art Education Center,” said NCMA’s Board of Trustees President, Todd J. Cohen, MD.

About the new Artist-in-Residence

Growing up in New York City and later Long Island, Frank Olt (b. 1955) discovered his artistic gifts as a teenager, beginning his study of ceramics at age 15 at the Crafts Students League in Manhattan. There, he learned to work with the potter's wheel, and experiment with clay and different glazes—techniques that would lay the foundation for a career defined by material exploration and a distinctive approach to abstraction. As a college student at C.W. Post, now LIU Post, Olt immersed himself in New York's rapidly evolving art scene, regularly visiting exhibitions in SoHo and connecting with the artists and ideas shaping contemporary art. Among the artists who profoundly influenced his development were Jackson Pollock, Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, Ellsworth Kelly, Mark Rothko, and Ray Johnson.

An enduring influence on Olt's artistic philosophy was his ceramics teacher Rose Krebs, who had studied within the Bauhaus tradition and introduced him to its integration of craft, fine art, design, and industrial aesthetics. Through Krebs, Olt encountered an approach to artmaking that balanced formal structure and color theory with experimentation and the expressive potential of everyday materials. His artistic outlook was further enriched by sustained engagement with Korean and Japanese art and ceramics. In Korea, he was captivated by the subtle green tones of celadon glazes and the understated elegance of white porcelain from the Yi Dynasty. His subsequent travels and extended stays in Japan, where he has exhibited both paintings and ceramics, deepened his appreciation for traditional craftsmanship, surface, and balance. He also explored the art and architecture of Turkey. These diverse influences—from the Bauhaus to East Asian ceramic traditions—continue to inform Olt's practice, in which disciplined technique and a sensitivity to materials meet an open-ended spirit of invention.

Frank Olt's residency at NCMA brings his career full circle. From 1977 to 1980, he was an artist-in-residence at P.S.1 in Long Island City, the pioneering alternative art space that later became part of The Museum of Modern Art. At a time when the New York art scene was alive with experimentation, Olt distinguished himself through his innovative use of ceramics within a contemporary art context. He went on to establish a significant career as an artist and educator, serving as a professor and head of the ceramics department at Long Island University's C.W. Post campus. His work has encompassed public art commissions, including large-scale ceramic and mosaic glass wall sculptures for New York City's Art in Transit program, and continues to evolve through his exploration of unconventional materials and processes.

"One aspect of Olt has remained unchanged: he is engaging and enthused about his work and he has a remarkable ability to explain it and to involve his viewers in the unique processes and experiments he explores," said Franklin Hill Perrell, NCMA's Chief Curator, who first encountered Olt's work at P.S.1 in the late 1970s.

Program Highlights & Public Engagement

Through its Artist-in-Residence program, the Nassau County Museum of Art expands its commitment to making art accessible and fostering meaningful connections between artists and the public. Set within the historic Mansion and the 145-acre William Cullen Bryant Preserve, NCMA offers a setting where artistic exploration and engagement with the natural world intersect. Olt's residency will invite visitors

to experience art not only as a finished work, but as an evolving process of discovery, transformation, and creative exchange.

In conjunction with the residency, NCMA will host open studios, hands-on workshops, and artist lectures to foster deeper engagement between the artist and visitors, museum members, students of all ages, and the community. **The first [Open Studio held by Frank Olt](#), will take place on November 1st, 2026 at 4:30 pm.**

Visitors are invited to learn about Olt's process firsthand at **upcoming workshops led by our Artist-in-Residence**. [Visit our website for more information and event details](#).

"The Artist-in-Residence program showcases contemporary artists as they develop new works," said NCMA Executive Director Beth Horn. "It offers a rare glimpse into what is often a private creative process. We hope these experiences not only inspire emerging artists to pursue their own creative paths but also engage our visitors and the wider community."

About the Museum

Located in an authentic Gold Coast mansion on the former Frick family estate, the Nassau County Museum of Art presents multiple fine art exhibitions and related public and educational programs each year. The property features a sculpture garden with 44 major works on view, formal gardens, a century-old pinetum, and miles of wooded trails on the 145-acre preserve. Also on the estate is the Manes Art Education Center, which offers year-round classes and seasonal events for all ages and abilities and hosts an Artist-in-Residence program.

The Museum, at One Museum Drive, off Northern Boulevard in Roslyn Harbor, New York, 11576, is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 am to 4:45 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65 and above), and \$5 for students and children (4 to 12). Docent-led tours of the exhibition are offered at 2 pm each day; tours of the mansion are offered each Saturday at 1 pm. Both tours are free with museum admission. Admission to the property is free of charge.



Assorted works by Frank Olt (b. 1955), Painted Ceramics and Encaustic on linen, Multiple glazes,
Glass and luster on ceramic with custom frames, Dimensions variable



Frank Olt (b. 1955), Ceramic Sculpture, Multiple glazes and luster on ceramic, 19 x 17 inches

Frank Olt (b. 1955), Painted Ceramics, Multiple glazes and luster on ceramic with custom frames, 12 x 12, 16 x 16, 17 x 17



Assorted works by Frank Olt (b. 1955), Multiple glazes and luster on ceramic with custom frames, Dimensions variable

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