



# The Art Students League of New York

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## The Art Students League Mourns Former Student and Benefactor James Rosenquist

**New York, April 1**—The Art Students League of New York mourns the passing of former student and long-time supporter James Rosenquist, who passed away Friday. Mr. Rosenquist first came to New York in 1955, at the age of 21, on an out-of-town scholarship from the League.

“Mr. Rosenquist radically changed the art world, creating seminal works in painting, collage, drawing, and printmaking,” said Timothy J. Clark, interim executive director at the League. “He was also a gentleman and a generous supporter of our school.”

Mr. Rosenquist studied at the League with Will Barnet, Edwin Dickinson, and George Grosz. As he describes in [this short film](#), after he arrived at the League, “I jumped up on a desk” in front of then-executive director Rosina Florio, “and I said, ‘I made it! I finally made it!’” Mr. Rosenquist was a life member of the League.



“Whenever I spoke with him, Mr. Rosenquist told me of his gratitude to the League, and especially to his League mentor, Will Barnet,” Mr. Clark said. “He blended his life experience as a billboard painter with his formal training to create work that combined pop and figurative painting with a healthy dose of topical imagery. His grand-scale paintings hit the heart of 1960's culture. The art world has lost a great master. Fortunately his art lives on.”

Of the League Mr. Rosenquist said, “The teachers were incredible and it's a very democratic place. I mean, you don't get a degree, you only get what you learn – knowledge – that's it.”

Mr. Rosenquist received the League's highest honor at its 2016 Gala. The award was accepted by Mr. Rosenquist's wife, Mimi Thompson.

### **About the Art Students League**

The Art Students League of New York is one of America's premier art schools. It was founded in 1875 by artists, for artists, to provide affordable studio-based art education of the highest quality. Great artists have trained, taught, and exhibited at the League throughout its rich history. Classes, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and professional development programs continue the League's legacy of supporting students who intend to make art a profession, and cultivating a spirit of community among artists.

Among its prominent instructors and students, the League counts Thomas Eakins, Frederic Remington and Reginald Marsh, Georgia O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Mark Rothko, Jacob Lawrence, Louise Nevelson, and Ai Weiwei, among many others. Today, thousands of students each year study drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and mixed media at the League.

<http://www.theartstudentsleague.org/>