



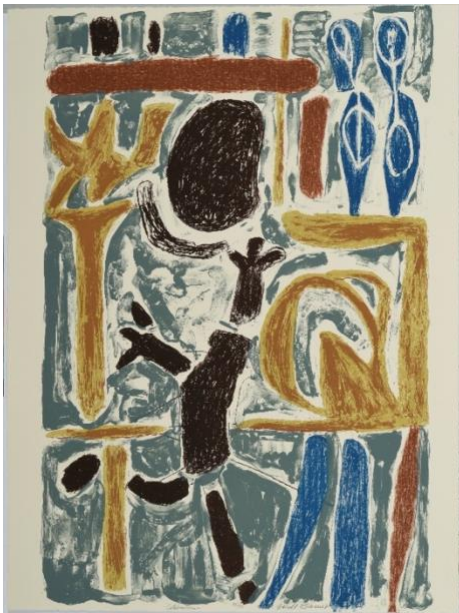
THE ART STUDENTS LEAGUE PRESENTS

**Art Students League Lineages: Intermediate Forms**

***Will Barnet, Terry Haass, Knox Martin, Ezra Cohen and Natsuki Takauji***

***The Art Students League of New York Lobby***

***November 4—December 31, 2021***



Will Barnet, *Celebration*, Lithograph, 30" x 22 ¼",  
Permanent Collection of The Art Students League



Ezra Cohen, *Home*, 2020, oil on canvas, 36" x 24

**(New York, NY):** The Art Students League of New York is pleased to announce the appointment of Jillian Russo as our first annual Curator at Large. Jillian will be curating a series of exhibitions on *League Lineages* in our lobby at 215 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street starting this November. Each exhibition will run for approximately 6—8 weeks. Russo will also be curating a summer exhibition in the Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery on the second floor of The League, with selected works from our permanent collection that explore and examine the historic lineages that connect instructor and student artists at The League. These artistic through lines capture dialogues and movements that defined the development of American art from the late nineteenth-century to the present. Our inaugural exhibition takes famed painter and printmaker Will Barnet (1911-2012) as a starting point. The works on view illustrate the legacy of Barnet's ideas about space and form, which he noted in a 1993 interview, include "the question of the space between two major forms. The intermediate form."

Barnet's students, printmaker and sculptor Terry Haass, who worked at the renowned printmaking studio Atelier 17, and Abstract Expressionist painter Knox Martin, take their own approach to intermediate forms. Haass's shapes float, suspended in, and sometimes penetrated by, the space around them. Martin finds compositional rhythm in collage-like images that bring together Pop-art inspired pattern, gestural brushwork, and figurative elements. In turn, Martin's students, Ezra Cohen and Natsuki Takauji continue to explore the interplay of form and void.

A student of League Instructor Stuart Davis, Barnet's practice strove to encompass classical and modernist themes. His flattened, emblematic images spanned the modes of figuration and abstraction, often integrating the two with crisp

shapes and a poetic use of color. Barnett noted, “I never wanted to destroy the modern idea—like Cezanne said he wanted a link between himself and tradition. I never wanted to destroy that link; I wanted that link to be solid.”



**Jillian Russo** is a Brooklyn-based curator and art historian. She served as Curator for the Art Students League from 2013-2018 and as Director of Exhibitions at Hollis Taggart from 2019-2021. She has organized numerous exhibitions including *Remnant Romance: Environmental Works*, *Idelle Weber and Aurora Robson*, *Knox Martin: Radical Structures*, *The Masters: Art Students League Teachers and their Students*, and *On the Front Lines: Military Veterans at the Art Students League of New York*. She is a contributor to the *Brooklyn Rail* and has written articles for *American Quarterly*, *CAA Reviews*, and *Panorama*. She received her PhD in American art from the Graduate Center, CUNY.

**Jillian Russo:** “I am thrilled to inaugurate the Art Student League’s newly-created position of Curator at Large. I look forward to drawing upon my knowledge of The League’s historic permanent collection and building upon my previous collaborations with students and faculty to organize compelling exhibitions of both historic and contemporary art. Going forward I hope the position will bring fresh curatorial perspectives to The League and spotlight the exceptional work being done by students, instructors, and alumni.”

During the summer The League will host four exhibitions curated by Jillian: The 2022 Final Project Exhibition of work by our graduating Certificate Students, The 2022 Juried Student Salons Winners exhibitions, as well as the Merit Scholarship Winners and Grant Winners exhibitions.

#### About The Art Students League of New York:

The League was founded in 1875 by students breaking away from the National Academy of Design. That independent spirit remains at The League today, where students pursue their work unconstrained by dogma, politics or burdensome tuition. We educate students in the language and process of making art in an environment where anyone who wishes to pursue arts education can realize his or her full potential. The League fulfills this mission by offering affordable, high-quality education and instruction in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and assemblage. Artists who have studied at the League include Georgia O’Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, Jackson Pollock, Robert Rauschenberg, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, James Rosenquist and Ai-Weiwei, among others. [theartstudentsleague.org](http://theartstudentsleague.org)

@asl NYC #asl NYC #atelier17

#### The Art Students League of New York

Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
215 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Monday through Friday: 10:00 am through 8:00 pm  
Saturday and Sunday: 10 am to 4 pm

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