

New Britain Museum of American Art & The Glass House Collaborate to Present Digital Programming

Both Museums Celebrating Women's Initiatives, Anni Albers Exhibitions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(May 4, 2020) New Britain and New Canaan, CT - Two of Connecticut's most prestigious museums, The New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA) and The Glass House, are collaborating to present virtual programming and digital offerings based on their respective Anni Albers exhibitions.

Known for her pioneering graphic wall hangings, weavings, and designs, Anni Albers (1899-1994) is considered the most important textile artist of the 20th century. Comprising 116 objects from the collection of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, the exhibition *In Thread and On Paper: Anni Albers in Connecticut* at NBMAA is curated by Fritz Horstman and explores the groundbreaking work she produced in Connecticut from the 1950s through the end of her life, and includes an extensive body of textiles, wall hangings, commercial collaborations, and works on paper. (NBMAA's exhibition is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Visit <https://nbmaa.org/exhibitions/anni-albers> for a virtual walkthrough of the exhibition.)

Named for a 1957 essay by Anni Albers about the relationship between textiles and architecture, *Pliable Plane* is a new series of site-responsive textile projects at The Glass House. For the first in the series, The Glass House and the Albers Foundation are collaborating to create a new bedspread and window panels based on original works by Anni Albers and installed in the transparent pavilion's sleeping area. Philip Johnson was instrumental in Josef and Anni Albers's immigration to the United States in 1933. In 1949, the year the Glass House was completed, Johnson organized a landmark exhibition of Anni Albers's textiles at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. *Pliable Plane: Anni Albers* is scheduled to open in September 2020. Visit <https://theglasshouse.org/learn/anni-albers/> for Albers-related resources.

Virtual Events

May 11: Fritz Horstman will deliver a live Zoom lecture on Anni Albers at 7:00 p.m. EST as part of *Glass House Presents*, an ongoing series of public programs – including conversations, performances, and gatherings – that sustain the site's historic role as a meeting place for artists, architects, and other creative minds. Register in advance here: <https://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/fritz-horstman-on-anni-albers/>

May 14: Robert (Bob) Gregson live Zoom lecture on Anni Albers presented by NBMAA at 5:30 p.m. EST. Register in advance here: <https://nbmaa.org/events/an-evening-with-robert-gregson>

May 22: Fritz Horstman will lead a hands-on color workshop based on Josef Albers's book *Interaction of Color* via Zoom at 11 a.m. EST. Register in advance here: <https://theglasshouse.org/whats-on/josef-albers-color-workshop/>

"Experiments" lecture by Fritz Horstman and Karis Medina is now being developed as a prerecorded talk, ready the week of May 22.

Additional programs to be announced.

Background Information

The New Britain Museum of American Art is proud to present 2020/20+ Women @ the NBMAA, a groundbreaking, year-long series of exhibitions and programming featuring works by a diverse group of women artists. The exhibitions,

which honor the centenary of women’s suffrage in America, provide a twelve-month platform for female artists in the context of this milestone year. The artists selected represent diversity in race, ethnicity, age, experience, perspectives, cultural backgrounds, career, geography, and medium. Kara Walker, for example, explores race, gender, violence, and identity in representations of the African American experience. Anni Albers is considered the most important textile artist of the 20th century, as well as an influential designer, printmaker, and educator. Shantell Martin’s work is unique in her innovative and multidisciplinary output—combining art, commerce, and technology, while Jennifer Wen Ma’s interdisciplinary practice bridges installation, public art, performance, and community engagement. Helen Frankenthaler has long been recognized as one of the great American artists of the 20th century. The Museum will also present two group thematic exhibitions as part of the 2020 year-long program. One exhibition features rare Shaker “Gift” or “Spirit” drawings created by women between 1843–57. “Gift” or “Spirit” drawings are unique to the Shakers and to American religious culture. The other, which honors 100 years of American suffrage, highlights artists whose work advocates for social change, installed with historic ephemera from the women’s suffrage movement. Individually and collectively, the works by these artists challenge and inspire women and people of all genders, races, and ethnicities. Learn about the exhibitions and programs at nbmaa.org.

The Glass House, built between 1949 and 1995 by architect Philip Johnson, is a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation located in New Canaan, Connecticut. The pastoral 49-acre landscape comprises fourteen structures, including the Glass House (1949), and features a permanent collection of 20th-century painting and sculpture, along with temporary exhibitions. *Pliable Plane: Anni Albers* is a part of “Where Women Made History,” the National Trust’s multi-year initiative to honor the female leaders, thinkers, activists, and groundbreakers who contributed to American history and culture, and to protect the places where these women made their mark. Learn more and support our efforts at savingplaces.org/womens-history

Fritz Horstman has worked with the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation since 2004. Prior to organizing *In Thread and On Paper: Anni Albers in Connecticut*, he organized exhibitions of the Albers’ work in Italy, Ireland, and Croatia. In his role as education director he has lectured and taught workshops at MoMA, the Guggenheim, the Dessau Bauhaus, the Royal Academy of Art, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and others. Horstman’s writing has been published by Harvard University, The Royal Academy of Art, The Bauhaus Archive, and others. Also an artist, his sculptures, drawings, and videos have been shown in many international venues.

Bob Gregson was born in Morristown, New Jersey. He received a BFA from the Hartford Art School and an MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago. His early training included Life Magazine illustrator Carroll N. Jones, Jr. and Pulitzer Fellowship recipient Rudolph Zallinger. After Hartford Art School he worked at the renowned Sidney Janis Gallery in New York assisting Josef Albers, Claes Oldenburg, Ellsworth Kelly, Marisol and others.

As a teacher he has directed the art classes at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, taught at the Young Artists Studio in Chicago, as well as the University of New Haven, Southern Connecticut State University and the University of Hartford. He is the author/illustrator of several best selling books for teachers that mix art and games. For 22 years Bob was creative director for Connecticut Culture & Tourism. Bob is a member of the Silvermine Guild in New Canaan.

PRESS CONTACTS:

Lisa Lappe, Director of Marketing for NBMAA, lappel@nbmaa.org

Christa Carr, Communications Director, The Glass House, ccarr@theglasshouse.org

###