



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Emily Gaynor Porto, Marketing Director
marketing@woodstockart.org

**The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum Announces
*Large-Scale Abstract Paintings from the Permanent Collection***

January 28 – May 8, 2022

Artists Reception: Saturday, February 19, 4-6pm



(Woodstock, NY) - Woodstock Artists Association & Museum presents *Large-Scale Abstract Paintings from the Permanent Collection*, on view in the Phoebe and Belmont Towbin Wing from January 28 – May 8, 2022. An artists reception, open to the public, will take place on February 19 from 4-6pm to celebrate this and other exhibitions opening at WAAM. This presentation features nine large-scale abstract paintings from the 1950s through the early 1980s, drawn primarily from the WAAM collection. The exhibition is curated by Nicole Goldberg, Executive Director.

Inspired by *Large-Scale Modern Paintings* at MoMA in 1947 and *Epic Abstraction at The Met Fifth Avenue* in 2018, this exhibition looks to the revolutionary spirit in America that emerged after World War II and materialized as Abstract Expressionism in Modern art. At MoMA, the smallest canvas was over six feet long and at the Met the galleries included monumental sculpture. At WAAM, the huge canvases are at least fifty inches on one side; together, all nine works envelop the viewer in the singular gallery space used for historic exhibitions of work by artists of the Woodstock colony. Figures and landscapes traditionally on view in this gallery are replaced by lines, amorphous shapes, large drips and swaths of color.

The term “large-scale” serves as the springboard for a thematic installation that intersperses enduring iconic figures of Woodstock art such as Ethel Magafan, Edward Chavez and Ernest Frazier with works by lesser-known artists like Gwen Davies—a close friend of Mark Rothko—and Lou Tavelli, a neighbor and friend of Philip Guston. Other artists include Roman Wachtel, Ezio Martinelli, Edward Millman, and Richard Crist.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Abstract Artists Chat

Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00pm via Zoom

This intimate virtual gathering offers artist members and non-members a chance to build community through conversation among people who create abstract art in the Hudson Valley. Participants will use works on view in the exhibition to generate talking points about abstract art and their creative process. Participants are welcome to share a selection of their own works with a 2-3 minute slideshow.

Artists Reception

Saturday, February 19 from 4-6pm

To celebrate this and four other exhibitions, WAAM will hold an artists reception, open to the public.

Solo Artist Talk

Saturday, April 9 at 3:00pm, Solo Gallery

In an adjoining gallery, abstract painter Nancy O'Hara will give a talk on her concurrent solo exhibition.

Film Screening, Beyond the Visible: Hilma af Klint

Saturday, April 23 at 5:00pm, Towbin Wing

Hilma af Klint was an abstract artist before the term existed: a visionary, who began in 1906 to create a series of huge, colorful, groundbreaking paintings. This documentary about her life and career rewrites art history and re-examines the genesis of large-scale abstract art. This screening will take place in the Towbin wing within WAAM's exhibition of *Large-Scale Abstract Paintings from the Permanent Collection*. Run time: 93 minutes; FREE for members; \$10 nonmembers. Seats are limited.

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Woodstock Artists Association & Museum

Founded in 1919, the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is a not-for-profit membership organization featuring an historic Permanent Collection of regional art exhibited in the Towbin Wing, three contemporary art galleries, a dynamic Education Program and an Archives of materials associated with artists of the Woodstock region.

General Information

The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is located at 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY. Gallery hours are Thursday thru Sunday from noon-5pm. WAAM is closed during major holidays. For general information please call: 845.679.2940 or visit our website at: woodstockart.org.

Images (left to right): Richard Crist (1909-1985), *North Passage*, n.d., oil on canvas, 43-1/2 x 50 inches; Lou Tavelli (1914-2010), *Untitled*, 1960, oil on canvas, 50 x 45 inches; Edward Chavez (1917-1995), *Gunnison III*, 1979, acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 inches (unframed).