

Guild Hall

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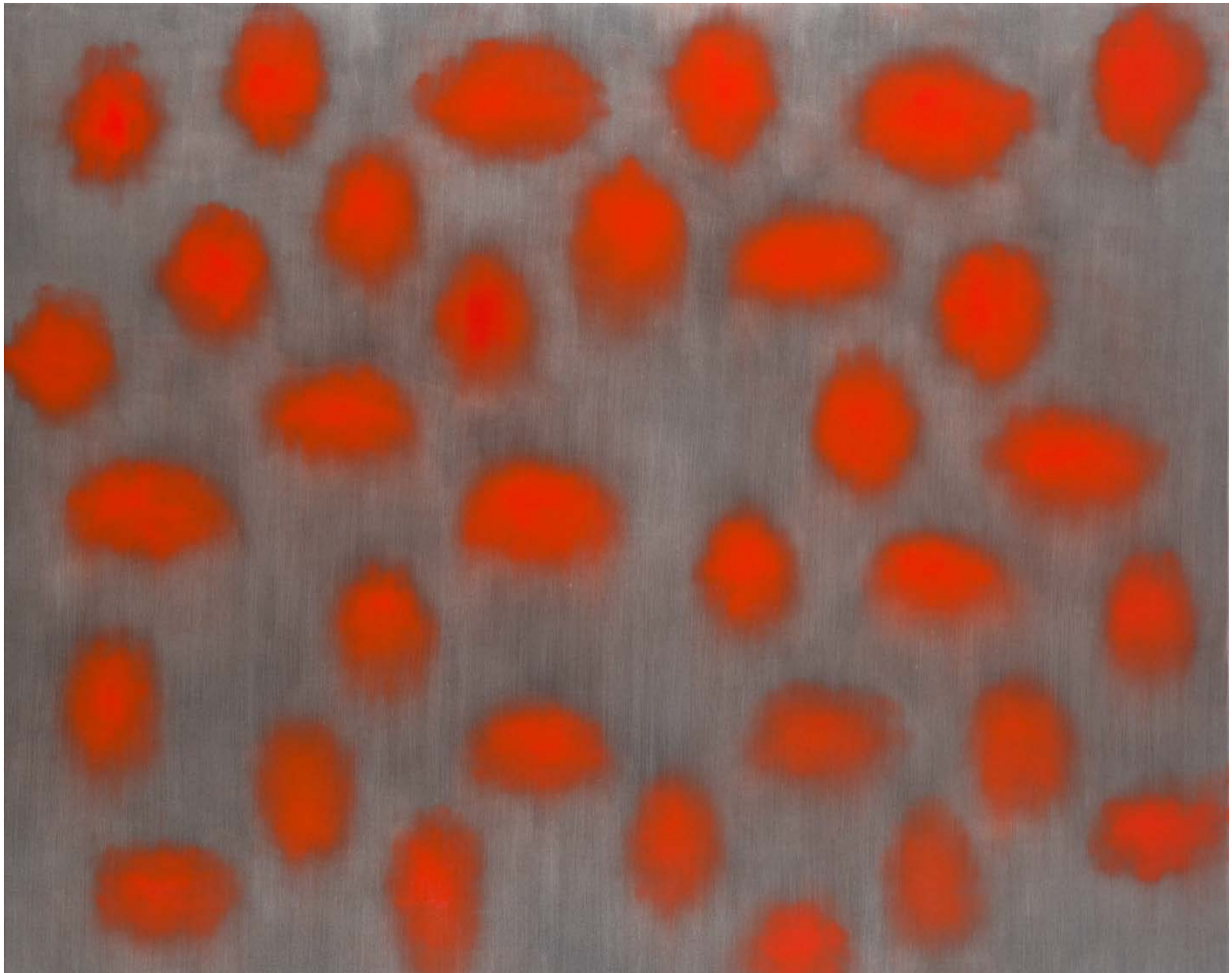
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Guild Hall Announces 2026 Museum Exhibitions

**A Year-Long Program of Intimate Portraiture,
Collaborative Practice, and Two Major Summer Exhibitions
featuring the Works of Ross Bleckner and Eric Freeman**



Ross Bleckner, *Throbbing Hearts*, 2018. Oil on linen, 72 x 96 inches.

February 23, 2026 — East Hampton, NY: Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY) proudly announces its 2026 visual arts exhibition lineup, a thoughtfully planned year of gallery presentations that reflect the Museum's enduring commitment to artistic practice, creative dialogue, and community. Spanning painting, sculpture, design, and collective practice, the

2026 season brings together emerging artists and established voices who, through their ideas and practices, engage with questions of memory, identity, materiality, and perception.

"Our 2026 season brings together artists of precision and commitment, people who know their materials, their processes, and the weight of attention," shared Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts. "Across eight exhibitions, we honor and celebrate labor, care, aging, loss, and lives too often overlooked. Through their work, these artists trace the intimacy of lived experience, affirming joy, recognition, and the power of being seen."

SPRING / SUMMER 2026

Claire Watson: Re-Paired

May 3 – July 19, 2026

In *Re-Paired*, Claire Watson's, the 2023 *Top Honors* recipient of the 84th Artist Members Exhibition, sculptures and mixed-media assemblages draw on found materials, particularly salvaged leather garments, which she deconstructs and reconfigures using traditional sewing and pattern-making techniques. Traces of wear suggest the histories of the body and labor, transforming utilitarian objects into abstract meditations on human form and presence.

Arcmanoro Niles: Forgotten Words I Never Got to Say

May 3 – July 19, 2026

Running alongside Watson's exhibition, *Forgotten Words I Never Got to Say* marks Arcmanoro Niles's first solo museum presentation and coincides with the tenth anniversary of his 2016 Guild Hall residency, the inaugural Artist in Residence program. Tracing a decade of evolution, the exhibition highlights his saturated color, reflective surfaces, and emotionally charged scenes drawn from daily life and memory. Experimenting beyond traditional approaches to skin tone, Niles layers color to evoke internal light. Works from the past decade reveal the growth and complexity of his distinctive visual language.

SUMMER 2026

Ross Bleckner:

NEVER

THE

LESS

August 9 – October 25, 2026

Eric Freeman: The Volume of Color

August 9 – October 27, 2026

Guild Hall's summer season culminates in two major solo exhibitions by internationally recognized artists Ross Bleckner and the late Eric Freeman, opening concurrently in celebration of the Guild Hall Summer Gala on Friday, August 7. The gala weekend will mark the public debut of both exhibitions, uniting the visual arts and Guild Hall's premier social event in a shared moment of artistic celebration.

Ross Bleckner emerged as a leading New York artist during the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, creating paintings that explore change, loss, memory, and the body. A central figure in the revival of painting, he integrates psychological, social, and political concerns. *NEVER THE LESS* highlights a lesser-known aspect of Bleckner's process: the making of 10 × 8-inch

paintings before scaling to the large works for which he is best known. Guild Hall presents nearly 200 rarely seen small-scale paintings alongside major works, offering insight into his practice across time.

Eric Freeman's exhibition marks the first major institutional solo presentation of the artist's work on the East End, where he lived and worked for many years. Freeman's radiant abstractions transform color into planes of light and pigment that construct space rather than merely depict it. Layers of luminous varnish and saturated tone generate a visual depth that feels structural—at times almost architectural—drawing viewers into fields of color defined by both intensity and calm.

FALL / WINTER 2026

The 86th Artist Members Exhibition

November 8, 2026 – January 10, 2027

A cornerstone of Guild Hall's history, the 86th Artist Members Exhibition continues a tradition spanning more than eight decades. This non-juried exhibition showcases the breadth of artistic talent from Guild Hall's artist members, celebrating the diversity, vitality, and ongoing evolution of the East End's creative community.

Michael Butler: Somewhere in Time

November 8, 2026 – January 10, 2027

Presented concurrently, Michael Butler, the Top Honors recipient of the 85th Artist Members Exhibition, presents his solo exhibition, *Somewhere in Time*. Butler, a self-taught artist with a deep interest in art and history, Butler has exhibited widely for over three decades. His small-scale narrative paintings draw on mythology, religion, dreams, and storytelling to illuminate overlooked histories, particularly those of enslaved and Indigenous communities on the East End. Rooted in the belief that the past remains active in the present, his work transforms fragments of history into visual allegories that link personal lineage to broader cultural memory.

CURRENTLY ON VIEW

Jason Bard Yarmosky: Time Has Many Faces

January 25 - April 19, 2026

Guild Hall has opened its 2026 season with a moving solo exhibition by Jason Bard Yarmosky, whose work centers on themes of aging, time, and memory, subjects the artist has been fascinated with since childhood. Through his practice, Yarmosky mixes traditional 17th- and 18th-century painting techniques with contemporary imagery, incorporating dreamlike elements, theatrical costume, and staged interiors that heighten a sense of intimacy.

Liberty Labs: A Decade of Design

January 25 - April 19, 2026

Presented concurrently with Jason Bard Yarmosky, *Liberty Labs: A Decade of Design* marks the 10th anniversary of Brooklyn-based Liberty Labs Foundation, co-founded by Sag Harbor's Evan Yee. The exhibition brings together work by the collective's members, past and present, reflecting on their shared commitment to art, design, and community. Select furniture pieces may be used, sound elements activate the space, and occasional public events will further animate the gallery, blending art, design, and social interaction.

These exhibitions are organized by Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts, with support from Philippa Content, museum manager and registrar, and Claire Hunter, museum coordinator and curatorial associate.

Galleries are open Thursday to Sunday, 12-5 PM (Wednesday to Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day), and museum admission is \$12/\$10 for Seniors 65+, and Free for Guild Hall members, children, and students. Membership details found [HERE](#).

Visit GuildHall.org for more details on the exhibitions as well as related programs.

EXHIBITION SPONSORS

Visual Arts programs are supported by lead funding from Lucio and Joan Noto, with additional support provided by Barbara and Richard S. Lane, The Michael Lynne Museum Endowment, The Melville Straus Family Endowment, The Giuppy Nantista Fund, and The Hoie Fund.

Additional support provided by Friends of the Museum:

Shari and Jeff Aronson, The Artist Profile Archive, William L. Bernhard, Elizabeth Gordon and Woody Heller, The Hayden Family Foundation, Robert Longo and Sophie Chahinian, Elin and Michael Nierenberg, Onna House, Lori and John Reinsberg, Jeff and Audrey Spiegel, Hillary and Jeff Suchman, Jane Wesman and Don Savelson, and Yurman Family Foundation.

Arcmanoro Niles Lead Sponsors: Bernard I. Lumpkin and Carmine D. Boccuzzi

Ross Bleckner Lead Sponsor: The FLAG Art Foundation

The Artist Members Exhibition is supported, in part, by the Giuppy Nantista Fund and the Helen Hoie Fund.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End: a museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun.

Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. As we approach our centennial, we have completed a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution.

For more information, visit www.guildhall.org or follow Guild Hall on Instagram at [@GUILD_HALL](#) and [Facebook](#).