

# Frankenthaler

## HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION COMMITS \$5 MILLION TO MULTI-YEAR COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORT FOR THE ARTS

### Funding Includes Grants to Foundation for Contemporary Arts' COVID-19 Relief Fund, Artist Relief, and Tri-State Relief Fund as well as Operational Support for 15 Small NYC Arts Organizations

New York, NY—UPDATE April 28, 2020—In response to the catastrophic situation artists and art organizations face in the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation announced a \$5-million commitment to relief funding over the next three years. The **Helen Frankenthaler Foundation COVID-19 Relief Effort** is a multi-year initiative building on the Foundation's commitment to supporting artists and art institutions and marks the Foundation's largest commitment of funding to date in support of a single cause since becoming active in 2013. The initial rounds of funding, comprising more than \$1.25 million, have been distributed in support of four initiatives:

- [Foundation for Contemporary Arts COVID-19 Relief Fund](#), providing emergency grants to artists to offset income losses resulting from canceled performances or exhibitions due to the pandemic;
- [Artist Relief](#), offering direct grants to artists for general financial hardship;
- [Tri-State Relief Fund](#), supporting workers in the visual arts who have experienced financial hardship from lack of income or opportunity as a direct result of the COVID-19 crisis; and
- **Operating funds for a consortium of small New York City-based arts organizations** who present the work of living artists, including [Artists Space](#), [Creative Time](#), [The Drawing Center](#), [Eyebeam](#), [The Kitchen](#), [The Laundromat Project](#), [The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts](#), [Performance Space New York](#), [Printed Matter](#), [Recess](#), [Socrates Sculpture Park](#), [The Sculpture Center](#), [Storefront for Art & Architecture](#), [The Swiss Institute](#), and [White Columns](#).

"None of us could ever have imagined the far-reaching medical and financial disaster that has engulfed us as a result of this pandemic. Helen would have given full-throated support to the board of her foundation making a major effort to aid the creative community. The art world must galvanize to support both its artists and those that work every day at its museums and cultural institutions. We believe this is the moment to step up," said Clifford Ross, Chairman of the Board of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation.

Added Elizabeth Smith, Executive Director of the Foundation, "Art is essential to our psychic and emotional well-being, and as a driver of the economy. As we assess and consider all the implications of this epidemic on artists and the arts field, we know that it will be important to offer assistance throughout a period of long recovery. Our multi-year commitment to this relief effort will complement the Foundation's support of its ongoing partnerships with arts organizations at the national level."

Additional funding recipients will be announced over the course of the next three years and include the Foundation's network of partners across the country.

## **ABOUT THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION**

Established and endowed by Helen Frankenthaler during her lifetime, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation advances the artist's legacy and inspires a new generation of practitioners through a range of philanthropic, educational, and research initiatives. Since becoming active in 2013, the Foundation has continued to strategically expand its program, which includes organizing and supporting significant exhibitions of the artist's work, fostering new research and publications, and advancing educational initiatives in partnership with arts organizations around the world. As a primary resource on the artist, and a steward of her collection and archive, the Foundation holds an extensive selection of Frankenthaler's work in a variety of mediums, her collection of works by other artists, and original papers and materials pertaining to her life and work.

Frankenthaler (1928–2011) is recognized among the most important American abstract painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, widely credited for her pivotal role in the transition from Abstract Expressionism to Color Field painting. Best known for her invention of the soak stain technique, Frankenthaler experimented tirelessly throughout her six-decade-long career, producing a large body of work with a profound impact on contemporary art and artist practices to this day.

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

Catherine Coughlin, [ccoughlin@resnicow.com](mailto:ccoughlin@resnicow.com), 212-671-5162

Juliet Sorce, [jsorce@resnicow.com](mailto:jsorce@resnicow.com), 212-671-5158

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