

# Yaddo News Release

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## **YADDO RECEIVES \$250,000 GIFT FROM HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION FOR FUNDING OF NEW LIVE-WORK VISUAL ARTS STUDIO**

*Saratoga Springs, NY, December 3, 2015* ...Yaddo, one of the nation's oldest artist communities, announced today that it has received a \$250,000 gift from the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation to underwrite the cost of a new live-work studio for a visual artist. The studio is one of five currently



under construction on the 400-acre estate, a National Historic Landmark that welcomes over 200 artists working in a variety of disciplines each year. The visual arts studio will be named in Frankenthaler's honor.

“This gift is deeply meaningful to us in a number of ways,” said Yaddo President Elaina Richardson. “It helps to underscore our rich legacy of hosting incredibly talented visual artists at various stages in their careers, from emerging artists to those who are world-renowned, such as Helen Frankenthaler. The gift also confirms a core fact—the artists who know us best have been remarkable supporters of Yaddo and are the reason we’re poised for a vibrant second century. We are grateful to the Frankenthaler Foundation’s Board and leadership for their generosity, and honored by the trust they have placed in us.”

Helen Frankenthaler’s association with Yaddo extended over many years, and included serving on the community’s Board of Trustees from 1973 to 1978. In addition to providing generous financial support for Yaddo, she additionally served on visual arts admissions panels and was actively involved in the recruitment of artists.

Clifford Ross, Chairman of the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation Board of Trustees and a nephew of the artist, stated, “Helen took great pleasure in

\*Rendering of one of five new live-work studios above provided by Phinney Design Group.

her association with Yaddo, working on its behalf to encourage numerous influential visual artists to participate in its programs. In recognition of this longstanding relationship, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation is proud to support Yaddo with a gift that will help create a nurturing environment in which visual artists can focus on developing their work."

The new cabins sit atop a ridge overlooking Yaddo's recently restored ponds, away from the noise of the interstate highway and tucked into the surrounding woods, each with an extraordinary vista. The visual arts studio is approximately 1,000 square feet, with a cathedral ceiling. The first guest is scheduled to be in residence in April 2016.

## **ABOUT YADDO**

Founded in 1900 by financier and philanthropist Spencer Trask and his wife Katrina, a poet and playwright, Yaddo is an artists' community located on a 400-acre estate in Saratoga Springs, New York. The notion of establishing such a community had come to her in a vision of men and women on the grounds "creating, creating, creating," and she spent her later life ensuring that their fortune would be used toward those ends.

Yaddo's mission is to nurture the creative process by providing an opportunity for artists to work without interruption in a supportive environment. Since opening its doors in 1926, it has hosted 6,500 artists, including James Baldwin, Leonard Bernstein, Henri Cartier-Bresson, and Sylvia Plath. More recent guests include Laurie Anderson, Martin Puryear, Pulitzer Prize winners Jeffrey Eugenides and Sheri Fink, and *Mad Men* creator Matthew Weiner. For additional public information, visit: <http://www.yaddo.org>.

## **ABOUT HELEN FRANKENTHALER AND THE HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION**

Helen Frankenthaler (1928-2011), whose career spanned six decades, has long been recognized as one of the great American artists of the twentieth century. She was eminent among the second generation of postwar American abstract painters and is widely credited for playing a pivotal role in the transition from Abstract Expressionism to Color Field painting. In addition to unique paintings on canvas and paper, she worked in a wide range of media, including ceramics, sculpture, tapestry, and especially printmaking. Her work, which continues to have a profound impact on

contemporary art, is represented in museum collections worldwide and has been the subject of numerous national and international exhibitions and substantial publications.

The New York City-based Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, established and endowed by the artist during her lifetime, is dedicated to promoting greater public interest in and understanding of the visual arts. For more information, visit: <http://www.frankenthalerfoundation.org>.

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For more information about Yaddo, or to schedule a press visit, please contact Tristan Kirvin at 518-584-0746 ▪ [tkirvin@yaddo.org](mailto:tkirvin@yaddo.org).

For press information about Helen Frankenthaler or the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, contact [press@frankenthalerfoundation.org](mailto:press@frankenthalerfoundation.org).

**Yaddo**

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