

Guild Hall

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GUILD HALL OPENS THE 85TH ARTIST MEMBERS EXHIBITION AND ANNOUNCES THE 2024 TOP HONORS WINNER

**Awards Juror Storm Ascher
Chooses Michael A. Butler for the Top Honors Prize**

Works Are Available for Purchase Benefiting Artists & Guild Hall



Guests at the opening of the 85th Artist Members Exhibition. Photo: Jessica Dalene

November 18, 2024 — East Hampton, NY: The **85th Artist Members Exhibition** and **Linda Reville Eisenberg: STILL** opened at **Guild Hall** (158 Main Street, East Hampton) last **Saturday, November 16**, with a members-only reception attended by over 600 guests. Awards Juror **Storm Ascher**, founder of Superposition Gallery and The Hamptons Black Arts Council, selected **Michael A. Butler** of Sag Harbor as the Top Honors recipient for his work, *Lilies of the Field*.

Michael Butler is an artist, historian, and humanitarian, and describes himself as an intuitive self-taught artist, defining his style as narrative folk art and primarily works in acrylic. The intricate details in his small-scale works have a powerful impact.

In addition to the Top Honors prize, Ascher awarded Honorable Mentions to **Lilah Yektai, Ross Watts, Anita Giraldo, Raphael Ogoe, and Kenneth Jackson.**

"I am honored to be selected as the awards juror for Guild Hall's 85th Annual Artist Members Exhibition, a longstanding tradition that has contributed significantly to the cultural fabric of The Hamptons," shared Storm Ascher. "My work with The Hamptons Black Arts Council and Superposition Gallery has always been rooted in building community and supporting diverse artistic voices, which aligns closely with Guild Hall's mission of fostering creativity and inclusivity on the East End, where I grew into the arts worker I am today. It is a privilege to join the esteemed history of past jurors who have celebrated the dynamic talent of this region. I look forward to bringing together our shared values to highlight the depth and breadth of this year's submissions, honoring both the artists and the rich legacy of this exhibition."

Since its inception, the *Artist Members Exhibition* has supported artists and Guild Hall by offering the works on view for purchase, with proceeds split evenly between the two. Works in all forms of media, from painting to sculpture, can be found on Guild Hall's [Shopify](https://shopart.guildhall.org/) page, <https://shopart.guildhall.org/>, with prices ranging from \$99 to \$24,000.

The *Artist Members Exhibition* began in 1938, and Guild Hall continues this long-standing, democratic tradition as the oldest non-juried museum exhibition on Long Island. This year's presentation features over 300 works and showcases a variety of media. As with the concept of the Salon, established artists are exhibited alongside emerging talent and first-time exhibitors, offering a glimpse of artistic practices within our community. This initiative allows audiences to support and celebrate the artists who live and work in our immediate region. Early AME participants included James Brooks, Lee Krasner, Willem de Kooning, Alfonso Ossorio, Charlotte Park, Jackson Pollock, and more.

In addition to the Artist Members Exhibition, presented in the Marks Family Galleries North and South, 2021 Top Honors winner Linda Reville Eisenberg's **STILL** can be viewed in the Tito Spiga Exhibition Space. Eisenberg, who was chosen by Gagosian director and curator Antwaun Sargent, has selected works that emphasize the intimate connection between creator and subject matter, as for Linda, painting is an act of discovery and curiosity, akin to meeting a new person. Capturing the timeless and universal qualities of still life, her paintings elevate her subjects, celebrating quiet simplicity and offering calm amid the clamor of contemporary life.

"Presenting both the Artist Members Exhibition and the solo presentation of the 2021 top honors winner, Linda Reville Eisenberg, allows a cohesive thread between the important aspects of the members exhibition and Guild Hall's mission—community and service to artists at all stages of their careers," stated Melanie Crader, Guild Hall's museum director & curator of visual arts. "It was a pleasure to finally work with this year's awards juror, Storm Ascher, an arts professional whose dedication to community, inclusion, and innovative modes of arts production is truly inspiring."

The 85th Artist Members Exhibition and *Linda Reville Eisenberg: STILL* are organized by Melanie Crader, museum director & curator of visual arts, with Philippa Content, museum registrar and exhibition coordinator.

In conjunction with the exhibitions, gallery tours will be offered on [Sunday, December 8 at 12 PM](#) with AME awards recipients and with Linda Reville Eisenberg on [Sunday, December 15 at 12 PM](#).

Both exhibitions are open through **January 5, 2025. Galleries are open Thursday to Sunday, 12-5 PM, and museum admission is always free.**

More on AME Awards Juror Storm Ascher can be found [HERE](#).

To learn more about these exhibitions and related programming, visit guildhall.org/events.

Photos from the opening reception by Jessica Dalene and installation images by Gary Mamay can be found here: <https://adobe.ly/4eBjaFP>

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

Visual Arts programs are supported by funding from The Michael Lynne Museum Endowment and The Melville Straus Family Endowment.

Additional support provided by Friends of the Museum: Sara Amani and Timothy Ward, Danielle Anderman, Shari and Jeff Aronson, The Artist Profile Archive, Amalia Dayan and Adam Lindemann, Cara and John Fry, Susan Lacy, Robert Longo and Sophie Chahinian, Onna House, Lisa and Richard Perry, Laurie and Martin Scheinman, Jeff and Audrey Spiegel, Hillary and Jeff Suchman, Barbara Tober, Jane Wesman and Don Savelson, Neda Young, and an anonymous donor.

Free gallery admission is sponsored, in part, by Landscape Details.

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 about Guild Hall, please visit GuildHall.org.
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