

# Guild Hall

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## Guild Hall Announces 2025 Museum Schedule

**Featuring Mary Heilmann's First Large-Scale Solo Exhibition in the Region;  
Installations by Joel Mesler and Almond Zigmund; Furniture Made by Artists;  
and the Student Art Festival Inspired by Robert Rauschenberg's Centennial**

**February 3, 2025 — East Hampton, NY:** Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY) is pleased to announce its 2025 exhibition schedule. The museum will open on Sunday, May 4, with a dynamic group exhibition, *Functional Relationships: Artist Made Furniture*, and a site-specific environment titled *Wading Room* by Almond Zigmund. Summer exhibitions will feature Mary Heilmann's first large-scale solo presentation with an institution on the East End, and an installation and program series by Joel Mesler. The season will close with the return of the Student Art Festival, inspired by the works of Robert Rauschenberg.



Installation view of AYN Foundation presents: John Chamberlain at Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ. Photo by John Berens.

“We are thrilled to present work by over 30 artists through a variety of group and solo exhibitions and site-specific installations, which include opportunities for public participatory programs,” shared Melanie Crader, Guild Hall’s museum director and curator of visual arts. “Guild Hall’s 2025 season exemplifies the truly interdisciplinary nature of artists across all generations.”

**Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture** Utilizing Donald Judd as a historical reference, this group exhibition features East End Artists who make functional furniture as an extension of their creative practice—as a means of problem-solving, to create an element of designed living, and to form social spaces—thereby incorporating art into many aspects of their daily lives. Artists include **Scott Bluedorn, John Chamberlain, Liz Collins, Quentin Curry, Peter Dayton, Connie Fox, Kurt Gumaer, Mary Heilmann, Yung Jake, Donald Judd, Mark Wilson, Robert Wilson, Evan Yee, Nico Yektai, and Almond Zigmund.**

In conjunction with the *Functional Relationships* exhibition. **Almond Zigmund**, artist and founder of the *Almond Artist and Writers* series, will lead the creation of a site-specific environment and a series of participatory public programs in the Marks Family Gallery South. The installation, titled **Wading Room**, will include functional, artist-made furniture for public use. The space will encourage visitors to linger, lounge, and interact, creating a dynamic gathering space that engages with the idea of how art can be an essential part of community building.

***Functional Relationships*** and ***Wading Room*** will be on view from **May 4 through July 13, 2025**, with a member’s preview on Saturday, May 3.



Mary Heilmann, *Glassy Wall*, 2020. Acrylic on wood and canvas, 9 x 18-1/4 x 1-1/8 inches (22.26 x 46.355 x 2.8575 cm). Photo by Dan Bradica. ©Mary Heilmann. Photo: Dan Bradica. Image courtesy of the artist, 303 Gallery, New York, and Hauser & Wirth.

**Mary Heilmann: Water Way** will be the artist’s first large-scale solo presentation with an institution on the East End, where she has been an integral part of the region’s creative community for decades. From California to New York City to Bridgehampton, Heilmann has prioritized living in close proximity to water, which has had a profound influence on her life

and work. Whether as a direct image or referential title, water has long been a recurring theme throughout her practice. Guild Hall is pleased to realize an exhibition that Heilmann has had a strong desire to stage—one that brings together over 40 works of a focused area of her output. The exhibition includes works on paper, ceramics, and paintings spanning from the 1980s through the present.



Installation view of *Joel Mesler: Kitchens are good rooms to cry in*, June 6 - July 26, 2024. Lévy Gorvy Dayan, New York. Image courtesy of the artist.

**[Joel Mesler: Miles of Smiles](#)** will be the artist's first exhibition and program at Guild Hall. Joel Mesler's practice sheds light on universal themes by filtering them through autobiography, humor, self-deprecation, and surprising compositional juxtapositions. Mesler has explored the power of acceptance, allowing emotions—as well as the cultural forms in which they become entangled—to exist at the center of his projects. With *Miles of Smiles*, Mesler, an artist and former art dealer, will create an installation that mimics his studio, office, and exhibition space—including work by a select group of his contemporaries—providing a gathering and meeting place where the artist will host office hours. Mesler's office hours create a simultaneous performance and public program.

***Mary Heilmann: Water Way*** and ***Joel Mesler: Miles of Smiles*** will be on view from **August 3 through October 26**, with a members preview on Saturday, August 2 and will be celebrated at Guild Hall's Summer Gala on Friday, August 1.

Exhibitions are organized by Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts with Philippa Content, museum registrar and exhibition coordinator.



Robert Rauschenberg, *Landing*, 1995. Vegetable dye on transfer paper, 20 x 31 inches. Gift of David White.  
Photo: Gary Mamay

The **2025 Student Art Festival: Rauschenberg 100** will be on view from **November 16, 2025 through January 4, 2026**. This year's festival honors the centennial of Robert Rauschenberg's birth by joining an international museum initiative organized by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. Guild Hall will partner 10 Public Schools and 10 East End Artists to collaboratively delve into what Rauschenberg called the "gap between art and life," valuing chance and collaboration in a wide range of materials, subjects, styles, and creative techniques.

The festival will conclude with an exhibition of new works and creative presentations by the partnered public schools and artists, and a special presentation of Rauschenberg's work held in Guild Hall's permanent collection. The permanent collection exhibition will be co-curated by the Guild Hall Teen Arts Council and Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts.

Guild Hall is completing gallery lighting upgrades (as part of the 2023-2024 renovation) through the end of April. Leading up to the reopening of the galleries in May, Guild Hall will have selections from the permanent collection on view in the public areas for patrons to enjoy while attending programs. Please visit [guildhall.org](https://www.guildhall.org) for a full schedule of events.

Museum admission is always free, and galleries are open during exhibitions, Thursday to Sunday, 12-5 PM (Wednesday to Sunday from July through Labor Day).

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## 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](https://www.guildhall.org).

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**Joel Mesler: Miles of Smiles**

*Lead Sponsor: Judelson Family Foundation*

**The 2025 Student Art Festival: Rauschenberg 100**

*This project is supported by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. With support from the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Guild Hall joins an international roster of institutions commemorating the artist's 100th birthday.*

**RAUSCHENBERG100**  
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