

PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL ACADEMY MUSEUM AND SCHOOL REOPENS WITH FREE OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

Free Admission to Exhibitions and Free Art Classes in Painting, Drawing and Printmaking Celebrate Vitality of New York's Most Enduring Visual Arts Institution

September 16 – 18, 2011

New York, NY, August 9, 2011 – The National Academy Museum and School celebrates its reopening with a three-day weekend of free admission and free art classes from September 16 – 18, 2011.

The Academy offers art sessions by professional artists for art enthusiasts of all ages. Instructions include still life composition, drawing from live models, printmaking, and copying masterpieces. Providing art supplies and portrait models, the art sessions take place throughout the newly renovated facility.

Closed for renovations since July 2010, the museum reopening weekend introduces visitors to the Academy's newly redesigned public spaces, starting with the museum lobby, which highlights the Academy's historic legacy featuring a ceiling engraved with the names of nearly 2000 National Academicians dating back to 1825 and celebrating newly inducted artists including Janine Antoni, Ann Hamilton, Glenn Ligon, Dana Schutz and others. Video images of recent work by these artists may be viewed on a monitor in the museum lobby. The renovations to the six-story 1902 Beaux Arts townhouse, 1915 extension and 1959 school also include revitalized museum galleries and two new galleries in the National Academy School.

Reopening exhibitions include ***Will Barnet at 100***, the first New York museum retrospective of the artist, celebrated for his figurative and abstract paintings, who at age 100 continues to paint and to give critiques at the National Academy School.

An American Collection highlights thematic exhibitions from the collection, including its centerpiece, a salon-style installation of approximately 100 works from the museum's

collections of over 7,000 works of art and architecture. Built largely by artists and architects through their Diploma presentations, works they submitted upon induction as National Academicians (NA), the collection reveals the breadth and inspiring sweep of American art. Dedicated to the opinions and sensibilities of artists, the collection is unique as it reflects the voices of American artists, presenting a living history of American art. The collection continues to grow today as new artists and architects are inducted as members of the Academy every year.

Free Instruction as Artists Illuminate Techniques

A home of art instruction since it was founded, the National Academy offers five free art sessions, held from Noon to 5:00 PM during the reopening weekend. Space is limited and offered on a first-come basis.

- Costa Vavagiakis, artist and instructor at the National Academy School, leads participants in *Drawing the Portrait* as they sketch a live model. Working with charcoal and pencil, participants receive guidance in capturing the sitter's expression and mood as well as working with shading and light.
- *Still Life Composition* offers instruction in the centuries-old practice that remains vital today. Participants, together with artist and instructor Sam Adoquei, analyze and depict the shapes and forms of a still life tableau, and plan sketches in charcoal and pencils. Adoquei creates an oil painting of the subject during the course of the afternoons.
- Academy instructor and master printmaker Josh Willis offers *Introduction to Printmaking – Take Home an Original Print!* Working in the media of monoprint, linoleum relief print, and collograph, Willis works with participants as they pull an original print of their own design. Ink plates and paper will be provided by the Academy.
- In *Recreating a Masterpiece: The Art of the Copy*, Academy instructor Eric March demonstrates copying techniques using an original work of art from the Academy's collections.
- *Colorful Expressions*: In this special class for young artists, Academy instructor and artist, Hannah Frassinelli, invites children and their parents to create artwork from costumed models in an exotic setting, using pencil and color markers. The setting stimulates visuals by artists including Henri Matisse, Henri Rousseau and others. Art materials are provided.

The National Academy's free reopening weekend is supported in part by the Office of Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick and the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, and through the generous support of Helene D. Jaffe.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

Founded in 1825, the National Academy Museum and School is the only institution of its kind that integrates a museum, art school, and honorary association of artists and architects dedicated to creating and furthering a living history of American art. The Academy promotes American art and architecture through exhibition and education and continues to play a critical role in fostering the visual arts in America.

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Art Classes: Please note: Each of the classes will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 5:00 PM. Children's art classes are held Saturday and Sunday from Noon to 5:00pm.

- *Drawing the Portrait*, Costa Vavagiakis
- *Still Life Composition*, Sam Adoquei
- *Introduction to Printmaking – take home an original print!*, Josh Willis
- *Recreating a Masterpiece: The Art of the Copy*, by Eric March
- *Colorful Expressions: For children and parents* with Hannah Frassinelli

Exhibitions:

- *Will Barnet at 100*
- *An American Collection*
- *Parabolas to Post-Modern: Architecture from the Academy's Collection*
- *The Artist Revealed: A Panorama of Great Artist Portraits*
- *National Academicians: Then and Now*
- *Contemporary Selections: Aligning Abstraction*

Dates: September 16 – December 31, 2011

Hours: Wednesday – Sunday, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Closed July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

NATIONAL ACADEMY MUSEUM

1083 Fifth Avenue at 89th Street

Admission: Adults: \$12; Seniors (65+) and students with valid ID: \$7,

Children under 12, members, and students of the National Academy School: free

PRESS CONTACTS:

Heidi Riegler, Director Marketing and Communications

National Academy Museum and School

212.369.4880, x 214

hriegler@nationalacademy.org

Andrew Decker:

Andrew Decker Communications

212.222.4688

decker06@gmail.com