



SOHO ARTS NETWORK

New SoHo Non-Profit Arts Network Launched with a Mission to Support SoHo's Creative History and Growing Artistic Community

Founding Members Include: **Apex Art, Art in General, Artists Space, Center for Architecture: AIA New York Chapter, Center for Italian Modern Art, Dia Art Foundation, The Drawing Center, The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation, HarvestWorks, Judd Foundation (101 Spring Street), Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, Recess, Soho Photo Gallery, Storefront for Art and Architecture, and Swiss Institute**

New York, NY, March 3, 2015—A group of non-profit arts organizations based in New York City's SoHo neighborhood announced today the launch of the SoHo Arts Network—a working network of art spaces dedicated to celebrating the rich history of SoHo's unique creative community and to advancing the neighborhood's continued cultural contributions to the lives of both residents and visitors. The network formally kicks off during this year's Armory Arts Week with a series of events and special opening hours at member institutions on Saturday, March 7. Concurrently, the network is launching a new printed and digital guide to the neighborhood's nonprofit arts destinations, which will be available at member institutions, restaurants, hotels, and shops throughout the neighborhood, as well as online at sohoarts.org and on member institutions' websites.

Spearheaded by the recently launched Center for Italian Modern Art, the SoHo Arts Network includes more than 15 arts and cultural organizations located in this historic downtown neighborhood. Created in part in response to the misperception that SoHo has lost its arts community, the network provides an important platform to increase awareness of the neighborhood's continued importance as an arts district, especially for non-profit organizations. The network facilitates and reinforces collaboration between institutions and artistic leaders within the area, and the sharing of best practices. In addition, the network seeks to further ignite the growth of the arts in the neighborhood through public programs and events exploring SoHo's rich cultural history. Future events being planned by the group include walking tours of SoHo's artistic past and present, and a series of talks on SoHo in the 1970s.

"My introduction to the New York City arts scene was making visits to SoHo galleries when I was a college student in the 1970s, and the vibrancy of that community made an enormous impression on me," said New York City Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl. "That creative energy lives on in the SoHo Arts Network. I congratulate this group of non-profits for joining together to continue the tradition of presenting bold work and engaging audiences in one of New York's most storied neighborhoods."

An industrial and manufacturing area until the early 1960s, SoHo grew to become an international art center in the 1970s, home to numerous artist residences, studios, galleries, and non-profit organizations. In the 1970s and 80s, internationally renowned artists such as Donald Judd, Chaim Gross, James Rosenquist, and Christo, among many others, worked and resided in the neighborhood. Over the following decades, gentrification transformed SoHo into a food, entertainment, and shopping destination. However, numerous organizations and artist studios that developed over the previous decades still thrive there as an essential part of the neighborhood's identity and legacy.

"While once New York's iconic, thriving nexus of artist studios and galleries, SoHo witnessed the flight of many artists and galleries to Chelsea, the Lower East Side, and Brooklyn in recent decades. Nevertheless, a robust presence of non-profit art institutions has remained, and indeed has continued to grow," said Heather Ewing, Executive Director of the Center for Italian Modern Art. "The network not only recognizes the neighborhood's tremendous artistic heritage, but also its continued vibrancy."

Brett Littman, Executive Director of The Drawing Center, says, "This is the second institution in my career that I have run in SoHo, and I feel strongly that this neighborhood and these organizations have played an important role in the formation of contemporary art and are still playing an active role in shaping culture today."

Special SoHo Network Events for Armory Arts Week

In conjunction with Armory Arts Week, the group is hosting special opening hours and events on Saturday, March 7. Highlights of the day include extended hours for Dia Art Foundation's The Earth Room and The Broken Kilometer, until 7 p.m.; special Saturday hours at the Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation from noon – 6 p.m.; an artist-led tour of the exhibition *Notes for a Choreography* at 5 p.m. at Art In General; and a free-entry open house viewing of *Medardo Rosso* at the Center for Italian Modern Art from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For further information on all programming, please visit:

www.thearmoryshow.com/armory_arts_week?date=2015-03-07

About SoHo Arts Network Members

- **Apex Art** offers opportunities to independent curators and emerging and established artists, and challenges ideas about art, its practice and curation. 291 Church Street; Tues. – Sat. noon – 6 p.m. www.apexart.org
- **Art in General** supports, since 1981, the production and presentation of new work by local and international artists, primarily through its New Commissions and International Collaborations programs. It also organizes an annual symposium, *What Now?*, on critical issues in contemporary culture. 79 Walker Street; Tues. – Sat. noon – 6 p.m. www.artingeneral.org
- **Artists Space** has successfully contributed to changing the institutional and economic landscape for contemporary art, by lending support to emerging artists and emerging ideas alike. 38 Greene Street; Wed. – Sun. noon – 6 p.m. www.artistspace.org
- **Artists Space Books & Talks** comprises publications selected by more than one hundred artists, writers and thinkers, each asked to select ten titles—in its diversity the inventory plots the depth of knowledge that influences contemporary art production and ideas. 55 Walker; Wed. – Sun noon – 6 p.m. www.artistspace.org
- **Center for Architecture: AIA New York Chapter** provides resources to both the public and building industry professionals. Through exhibitions, programs, and special events, the Center aims to improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment, foster exchange between the design, construction, and real estate communities, and encourage collaborations across the city and globe. 536 LaGuardia Place; Mon. – Fri. 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.cfa.aiany.org

- **Center for Italian Modern Art** is dedicated to promoting new scholarship and dialogue around modern Italian art in the U.S. and internationally. 421 Broome Street, 4th floor. Fri. and Sat., guided visits at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m.; group tours by appointment on other days. www.italianmodernart.org
- **Dia Art Foundation: The Broken Kilometer** Walter De Maria's *The Broken Kilometer* has been on long-term view to the public since 1979 and is the companion piece to De Maria's 1977 *Vertical Earth Kilometer* at Kassel, Germany. 393 West Broadway; Wed. – Sun. noon – 6 p.m. www.diaart.org
- **Dia Art Foundation: The New York Earth Room** Walter De Maria's *The New York Earth Room*, 1977, is the third Earth Room sculpture executed by the artist, the first being in Munich, Germany in 1968 and the second at the Hessisches Landesmuseum in Darmstadt, Germany in 1974. The first two works no longer exist. 141 Wooster Street; Wed. – Sun. noon – 6 p.m. www.diaart.org
- **The Drawing Center** explores the medium of drawing and its connection to contemporary culture by positioning drawing as primary, dynamic, and relevant to the future of art and creative thought. 35 Wooster Street; Wed. – Sun. noon – 6 p.m., Thurs. noon – 8 p.m. www.drawingcenter.org
- **The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation** is the house-museum and studio of American sculptor Chaim Gross (1904-91). The Foundation is dedicated to new scholarship on Gross, his contemporaries, and the history of American art through active engagement with its extensive art collections and historic building. 526 LaGuardia Place; Thurs. and Fri. 1 - 5 p.m. or by appointment. www.rcgrossfoundation.org
- **HarvestWorks** is a digital media art center supporting the creation and presentation of art works achieved through the use of new and evolving technologies. 596 Broadway Suite 602; Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. T: 212-431-1130 www.harvestworks.org
- **101 Spring Street/Judd Foundation** served as the New York residence and studio of Judd from 1968. Works on view at 101 Spring Street remain as they were installed by Judd prior to his death. 101 Spring Street. Guided Visits offered on Tues., Thurs., and Fri. at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m., and Sat. at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m. www.juddfoundation.org
- **Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art** is the first and only dedicated LGBTQ art museum in the world. It exhibits and preserves LGBTQ art, and fosters the artists who create it. 26 Wooster Street; Wed. – Sun. noon – 6 p.m., Thurs. noon – 8 p.m. www.leslielohman.org
- **Recess** is an artists' workspace open to the public. At once a studio and exhibition space, Recess initiates lasting connections between artists and audiences, presenting ambitious projects that embrace experimentation and focus on process. 41 Grand Street; Tues. – Sat. noon – 6 p.m., Thurs. 2 – 8 p.m. www.recessactivities.org
- **Soho Photo Gallery** was founded in 1971 by a group of *New York Times* photographers who wanted to create a venue for photography as fine art. 15 White Street; Wed. – Sun. 1 – 6 p.m. www.sohophoto.com
- **Storefront for Art and Architecture** is an institution committed to the advancement of critical and innovative positions in art, architecture, and related disciplines. Storefront convenes projects around the world, and its SoHo gallery space is host to an ongoing program of experimental exhibitions and events that are free and open to the public. 97 Kenmare Street; Tues. – Sat. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. www.storefrontnews.org
- **Swiss Institute** is one of New York's key non-profit institutions for contemporary art. Open to the public free of charge, it provides a significant forum for contemporary cultural dialogue between Europe and the United States. 18 Wooster Street; Wed. – Sun. noon – 6 p.m. www.swissinstitute.net

About the SoHo Arts Network

Founded in 2014, the SoHo Arts Network is a working network of non-profit arts organizations dedicated to celebrating the rich history of SoHo's creative community and to advancing the neighborhood's continued cultural contributions to the lives of both residents and visitors. For more information, and to download the new SoHo Arts Network map of non-profit arts spaces in the neighborhood, please visit: www.sohoarts.org

Media Contact: Emily Viemeister, Resnicow + Associates, 212-671-5177, eviemeister@resnicow.com