

NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL OF DRAWING, PAINTING & SCULPTURE

Lennart Anderson: A Retrospective **Opening October 18, 2021, at The New York Studio School**



Lennart Anderson, *St. Mark's Place*, 1969-76. Oil on canvas, 93 13/16 x 74 x 1/8 in.

Purchased with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and an anonymous donor, 1977.25.

© Estate of Lennart Anderson. Courtesy the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia.

New York — *Lennart Anderson: A Retrospective* opens at the New York Studio School (NYSS) on October 18, and will be on view until November 28, 2021. Lennart Anderson (1928-2015) was an American painter renowned for his mastery of tone, color and composition, place of high regard within the artistic community, and teaching career that deeply influenced future generations of painters. The first major survey of the esteemed artist's work since his death, this exhibition features over thirty paintings spanning a period of over six decades.

Curated by Graham Nickson and Rachel Rickert in collaboration with the artist's estate, the exhibition features works from both public and private collections as well as Anderson's gallery, Leigh Morse Fine Arts. Ranging from figurative works like *Mrs. Suzy Peterson* (1959) to the unfinished painting *Three Nymphs on a Bluff* left on his easel in 2015, the exhibition brings together a variety of genres, such as the human form, still life, portrait, landscape, and streetscape. Viewed together, the works attest to Anderson's lifelong interest in the interplay of tone, color, and light. Speaking with Jennifer Samet in 2002, Anderson explained, "When you look at nature from a distance, you can see how it all fits together. There is a harmony, and that is what interests me." The presentation also demonstrates the singular approach that informed his artmaking, which defied trends such as Abstract Expressionism.

Described in the *New York Times* as one of the “most prominent and admired painters to translate figurative art into a modern idiom,” Anderson had a profound interest in formalism and an appreciation for both Old and New Masters, especially Piero della Francesca, Diego Velázquez, and Edgar Degas, and his work was directly inspired by this knowledge of art history. For instance, *Idyll 4* (2012) is one of four paintings inspired by Claude Poussin that depict pastoral bliss, a subject Anderson began exploring in the 1970s.

Born in Detroit, Anderson earned an undergraduate degree at the Art Institute of Chicago, a Masters at Cranbrook Academy, and later studied briefly at the Art Students League in New York with Edwin Dickinson. Anderson taught at several prestigious schools, including Columbia University, Princeton University, and Yale University, before serving as a distinguished professor of Brooklyn College. He received numerous awards, including the Prix de Rome, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Tiffany Foundation. Anderson was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Academy of Design. Anderson’s work is represented in the permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Smithsonian’s Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Fralin Art Museum, Palmer Museum of Art, and Delaware Art Museum, among others.



Lennart Anderson in his studio in Park Slope, Brooklyn, 2012.
Jason Houston for the American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF)

This exhibition has been spearheaded by the artist’s daughter, Jeanette Anderson Wallace, who manages the estate for the artist’s family. Of the process of bringing together this collection of works to show the scope of Anderson’s practice, she says “It has been particularly meaningful to bring out paintings that have not been seen by the public for many years, and introduce a new generation of painters, curators, and collectors to his work.”

Co-curators Graham Nickson, Dean of the NYSS, and Rachel Rickert, Exhibitions Coordinator, comment "Lennart Anderson was a terrific painter; his works are pure obsession made palpable in paint. He mused constantly about tone, surface abstraction, and measure. He painted things, people, and places in relationship. Anderson’s work is never exactly what one expects. Perceptual works transcend observation and synthetic move into the territory of belief. In this exhibition, we pull together a collective force of his slow works for the

unacquainted to understand and revel in their profundity. Lennart was a great wit, so serious it allowed for surprises in his painting. He had an absolute passion for Degas and yet an attraction to DeKooning. He shaped his own vision with links to the great tradition from Roman times to present day. Lennart painted firmly and resolutely to the end. His warm shadow in the cool landscape is still with us.”

NYSS will present a virtual lecture the evening of **Tuesday, October 26, 2021**, to delve into Anderson’s work: “The Unexplained is Irresistible: A Discussion On the Work of Lennart Anderson with Jennifer Samet, Brian Schumacher, Amy Weiskopf & John Yau, Moderated by A’Dora Phillips.”

The exhibition is accompanied by a scholarly catalogue that pairs more than fifty full-color reproductions of Anderson’s work with essays by art historians Martica Sawin and Jennifer Samet and painters Susan Jane Walp and Paul Resika. It is available for pre-order now from [New York Studio School](#) and independent bookstores. An in-person catalogue launch will be hosted by the Milton Resnick and Pat Pasloff Foundation on **Saturday, November 13, 2021**, a fitting location as Anderson, Resnick, and Pasloff worked together in the Lower East Side and remained life-long friends. David Cohen, the publisher of *artcritical*, will moderate a conversation with curator Rachel Rickert and painters Kyle Staver and Steve Hicks.

Following its presentation at the New York Studio School, the exhibition will travel to other venues, including the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts and the Southern Utah Museum of Art.

Generous support for this exhibition is provided by the American Macular Degeneration Foundation (AMDF), BNY Mellon, Center for Figurative Painting, Charina Foundation, Emily Mason | Alice Trumbull Mason Foundation, Morris and Alma Schapiro Fund, Richard T. Spurzem, The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, Wolf Kahn | Emily Mason Foundation, private collectors, individuals, and anonymous patrons of the arts. Restoration for work in the Estate of Lennart Anderson has been generously donated by Simon Parkes Art Conservation in New York, NY.



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Exhibition Details

Dates: October 18–November 28, 2021

Hours: Monday-Sunday, 10 am–6 pm

Location: The New York Studio School, 8 West 8th Street, New York, NY, 10011

Health and Safety: The New York Studio School prioritizes the health and safety of our entire community. Please check the School’s website for the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidelines. In accordance with the Mayor’s “Key to NYC” plan, proof of vaccination is required for entry to the gallery. Masks must be worn at all times while in the building, and social distancing must be maintained. Prior to entering the building, all visitors are required to fill out a COVID-19 self-assessment questionnaire through the NYSS website: <https://nyss.org/covid-survey/>.

More information: <https://nyss.org/>

Virtual Programming

“The Unexplained is Irresistible: A Discussion On the Work of Lennart Anderson with Jennifer Samet, Brian Schumacher, Amy Weiskopf & John Yau, Moderated by A’Dora Phillips.”

Dates: Tues, October 26, 2021

Time: 6.30-7.30pm

Streaming: Free via Zoom and YouTube Live

More information:

<https://nyss.org/lecture/the-unexplained-is-irresistible-a-discussion-on-the-work-of-lennart-anderson-with-jennifer-samet-brian-schumacher-amy-weiskopf-john-yau-moderated-by-adora-phillips>

In-person Catalogue Launch

Dates: November 13, 2021, 4-6pm

Location: Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation

87 Eldridge Street, New York, NY

Tickets: <https://www.resnickpasslof.org/>

Traveling Exhibition

[Lyme Academy of Fine Arts](#)

Lyme, CT

Jan 14, 2022 - March 18, 2022

[Southern Utah Museum of Art](#)

Cedar City, UT

June 17 - September 16, 2023

Further locations and dates to be announced.

About The New York Studio School

The New York Studio School is committed to giving a significant education to the aspiring artist that can last a lifetime. Our aim is to reveal to the entering student appropriate questions about drawing, painting, and sculpture and to encourage them to work hard and think rigorously at all times, enabling them to construct an ethical and philosophical framework for their life’s work. The graduating Certificate or MFA student leaves the School with a developed understanding of the language of art; an enlarged imagination stirred by an established work ethic, with the passion and ambition to be an artist for years to come. These young artists leave the school and enter their careers with the ability to think with their eyes and exercise their imagination and perception.

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