

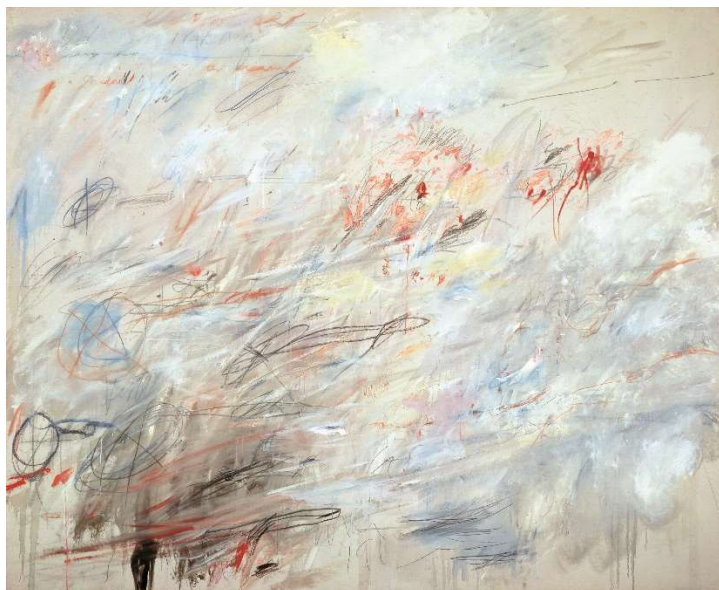
WHITNEY

PRESS RELEASE

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Cy Twombly, *Untitled*, 1964/1984. Oil stick, wax crayon and graphite on canvas, 80 1/2 × 98 1/4 × 1 1/4 in. (204.5 × 249.6 × 3.2 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; promised gift of Emily Fisher Landau P.2010.351. © Cy Twombly Foundation

MAJOR GIFT FROM THE CY TWOMBLY FOUNDATION TO NAME CONSERVATOR POSITION AT THE WHITNEY

NEW YORK, February 10, 2022– The Whitney Museum of American Art announces a newly endowed position, the Cy Twombly Conservator of Paintings, funded by a major gift from the Cy Twombly Foundation. The gift is being made in acknowledgment of Cy Twombly’s long relationship with the Whitney, which in 1979 was the first New York museum to present a solo exhibition of his work, and with Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, the Museum’s Melva Bucksbaum Associate Director for Conservation and Research. Associate Conservator Matthew Skopek, who joined the Whitney in 2007, has been named to the new position.

“This generous gift from the Cy Twombly Foundation is profoundly meaningful to the Museum,” said Adam D. Weinberg, the Whitney’s Alice Pratt Brown Director. “The discussions for the gift commenced before the COVID-19 crisis. When the pandemic broke out, the Foundation turned its immediate focus to a series of other major grants to provide urgent support for artists and small cultural organizations, as well as hospitals and educational institutions in the United States and Europe. We are thrilled to now announce this gift from the Foundation. It is a deeply forward-looking and far-reaching commitment that will make a great difference to the Whitney not just over the next few years, but far into its future.”

Weinberg continued, “This gift also speaks to something that goes to the heart of both the Whitney and the Foundation: our mutual commitment to artists. It is a tribute to the Whitney and our remarkable chief conservator Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, who founded our Conservation Department and worked closely with Twombly for twenty years. Carol’s work has been transformational in the field, placing artists, as much as objects, at the center of the conservation process. Matt Skopek is a brilliant conservator, and we are thrilled that his position will be named in Cy Twombly’s honor.” Twombly (1928–2011), one of the most important American artists to emerge in the second half of the twentieth century, had a long and distinguished relationship with the Whitney Museum. In addition to having his first solo exhibition at a major New York museum at the Whitney in 1979, Cy

Twombly: Paintings and Drawings 1954–1977, he was featured in six Biennials and Annuals between 1967 and 1995. An important exhibition, *Cy Twombly: Fifty Years of Works on Paper*, was presented in 2005, and his work was included in *America Is Hard to See*, the Museum’s inaugural exhibition in its downtown home, in 2015.

Nicola Del Roscio, the President of the Cy Twombly Foundation, commented, “Cy Twombly, like many other artists, was concerned about how art is restored, especially the treatment of paintings on canvas. I am sure that he would be very happy about our endowment of a position for restoration under the good auspices of Carol Mancusi-Ungaro, and particularly at the Whitney, which sponsored the first retrospective of Twombly in America.”

Over the years, the Whitney has collected Twombly’s work in various mediums through acquisitions and gifts, including five donations from the artist himself. In 1996, Twombly created a set of monoprints for the Whitney, which he then gifted to the Museum. A number of Twombly’s artworks in the Museum’s collection were acquired between 1969 and 2008, including gifts from the Whitney’s Chairman Emeritus Leonard A. Lauder. A large painting, *Untitled (1964/1984)*, is a promised gift of Emily Fisher Landau.

The Whitney’s Conservation Department, which grapples simultaneously with theoretical and practical preservation issues, was founded in 2001 as a treatment and research center. Located in the Bucksbaum, Leary, Scanlan Conservation Center in the Museum, the Conservation Department and its staff serve as an active resource to artists in all phases of their careers, discussing materials and conservation practice, and building new connections among artists and conservators. The department’s artist-centric approach—exemplified by the Whitney’s Replication Committee, a cross-departmental group that considers and authorizes any refabrication or creation of exhibition copies—is emulated by contemporary art institutions worldwide.

“We are honored to receive this support from the Cy Twombly Foundation,” said Carol Mancusi-Ungaro. “Exchanges with artists are central to our work, and recurrent conversations with Cy Twombly were instrumental in shaping our approach.” Mancusi-Ungaro was awarded the biennial Forbes Prize in 2016 for conspicuous services to Conservation—the highest honor given by the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. She is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, elected in 2009, marking its first recognition of art conservation. In 2021, Mancusi-Ungaro was awarded the Suzanne Deal Booth Rome Prize by the American Academy in Rome. During her fellowship, she will continue her work on a book about Twombly that explores the relationship between artist and conservator.

Whitney conservation staff publish and present extensively, sharing their practice, philosophy, and case studies with the conservation field and beyond. At the core of the Conservation Department’s work is the Artists Documentation Program (ADP), which interviews artists and their close associates to better understand their materials, working techniques, and intent for the preservation of their works. The interviews are conducted by conservators in a museum or studio setting. As a joint project with The Menil Collection, ADP strives to preserve and share this information globally. For more information, visit www.adp.menil.org.

Matthew Skopek was hired by Mancusi-Ungaro as Assistant Conservator in 2007 and promoted to Associate Conservator in 2015. He holds a Master of Arts and Certificate of Advanced Study in Conservation from the Art Conservation Program at Buffalo State, The State University of New York, specializing in paintings. He actively publishes and presents his work and previously held positions at the Museum of Modern Art and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as working at the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Chapel of Santa Maria degli Angeli. During his tenure at the Whitney, he has done major restoration projects on the Museum’s holdings, from Brice Marden and Agnes Martin to Charles Simonds, Norman Lewis, Barkley Hendricks, and Clyfford Still.

About the Foundation

The Cy Twombly Foundation is a private nonprofit foundation committed to fostering the study and preservation of the work and legacy of Cy Twombly by supporting scholarship and exhibitions around the world. The Foundation also supports philanthropic initiatives and organizations that embody the spirit of Cy Twombly's work and charitable endeavors. For institutions that encourage a deeper and broader appreciation of the artist, the Foundation has gifted special works to their permanent collections.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Public Art Project: David Hammons: Day's End	On permanent view
Jasper John: Mind/Mirror	Through February 13, 2022
Making Knowing: Craft in Art, 1950–2019	Through February 20, 2022
My Barbarian	Through February 27, 2022
Labyrinth of Forms: Women and Abstraction, 1930–1950	Through March 13, 2022
Jennifer Packer: The Eye Is Not Satisfied With Seeing	Through April 17, 2022
The Whitney's Collection: Selections From 1900 to 1965	Ongoing
Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept	April 6–September 5, 2022
At the Dawn of a New Age: Early Twentieth-Century American Modernism	May 7, 2022–January 2023
Martine Gutierrez: Supremacy	September 2022–March 2023
Edward Hopper's New York	October 19, 2022–March 5, 2023
no existe un mundo poshuracán: Puerto Rican Art in the Wake of Hurricane Maria	November 23, 2022–April 23, 2023

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for ninety years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

Visitor Information

The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Public hours are: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10:30 am–6 pm; Friday, 10:30 am–10 pm; and Saturday and Sunday, 11 am–6 pm. Closed Tuesday. Member-only hours are: Saturday and Sunday, 10:30–11 am. Visitors eighteen years and under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm.

Effective January 29, 2022, all visitors aged 5 and older must show proof of two vaccine doses or a single Johnson & Johnson dose for admission to the Whitney, in accordance with New York City requirements. Visitors over 18 will also be asked to show photo identification. Face coverings are required for all visitors, and timed tickets must be booked in advance. For complete visitor guidelines, visit whitney.org.

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