

WHITNEY

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PRESS RELEASE



Alex Katz (b. 1937), *Katherine and Elizabeth*, 2012. Oil on Linen, 72 x 186 inches. Collection of the artist; courtesy Gavin Brown's enterprise.
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The Whitney, TF Cornerstone, and High Line Art collaborate on Outdoor Alex Katz Installation

New York, July 23, 2014—In celebration of the Whitney Museum of American Art's forthcoming move to its new Renzo Piano–designed building in the Meatpacking District, the Museum has partnered with TF Cornerstone and High Line Art on a series of public art installations. Unfolding over the course of the next five years, the Museum will mount a succession of works by key American artists on the façade of TF Cornerstone's building at 95 Horatio Street directly across Gansevoort Street from the southern end of the High Line and the future Whitney, which will open to the public in spring 2015. The first installation, *Katherine and Elizabeth*, 2014, by the New York–based artist Alex Katz, is expected to be unveiled in September.

Adam D. Weinberg, the Whitney's Alice Pratt Brown Director, remarked, "As the Whitney transitions to its new downtown home, we are delighted that TF Cornerstone has offered the Museum such a highly visible space to share great works of American art with a public audience. I am also thrilled that we will inaugurate this partnership by presenting an important new work by Alex Katz, an artist with whom the Whitney has a long-standing relationship. We hope that the project will herald the Museum's presence downtown and continue to engage visitors to the High Line and our new building."

Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art, stated, "We are excited to collaborate with the Whitney on this series of billboards and to have them as our new neighbor. The addition of their new home only strengthens the cultural bridge that the High Line has created between the Meatpacking, Chelsea, and Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods."

The women depicted in *Katherine and Elizabeth* are friends and familiar subjects for Katz, who is known for his bright palette, graphic sensibility, and cinematic cropping. He made several studies in Maine in 2012 before completing the final work on which this 17-by-29-foot digital print on vinyl is based.

This installation is the latest of several public art projects the Whitney has been involved in organizing near its future home, underscoring its commitment to the surrounding neighborhood. In 2010, the

Museum launched *Whitney on Site: New Commissions Downtown*, which mounted site-specific works by Tauba Auerbach, Guyton\Walker (a collaboration between Wade Guyton and Kelley Walker) and Barbara Kruger at the construction site. In 2011, the Museum tapped choreographer Elizabeth Streb to debut an original piece at the May groundbreaking ceremony for the new building, as well as the new work, *ASCENSION*, presented in Gansevoort Plaza in July. In 2012, the Whitney collaborated with DDG Partners to wrap the construction site on the building at 345 West 14th Street in Yayoi Kusama's *Yellow Trees*, and it worked with High Line Art for the installation of Richard Artschwager's *B/ps* along the High Line and on neighborhood structures. Both projects were pegged to retrospectives of the artists at the Whitney.

About Alex Katz

Alex Katz was born in Brooklyn in 1927 and grew up in the St. Albans section of Queens. His Russian parents shared a deep interest in the arts. At Cooper Union's School of Art, Katz was trained in modern art theories and techniques, later earning a scholarship for study at Maine's Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture. Since 1951, Alex Katz's work has been the subject of more than 200 solo exhibitions and nearly 500 group exhibitions throughout this country and internationally. His many honors include two honorary doctorate degrees, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy Museum in New York, a Philip Morris Distinguished Artist Award from the American Academy in Berlin, and The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art's Annual Artist of the City Award. In 1974, the Whitney mounted an exhibition of his prints, and presented a mid-career retrospective of his work in 1986. An exhibition entitled *Alex Katz: Small Paintings*, organized by the Addison Gallery of American Art, traveled to the Whitney in 2001.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 21,000 works by more than 3,000 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is constructing a new home, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken in May 2011, and the new building is projected to open to the public in spring 2015.

About TF Cornerstone

TF Cornerstone was an early pioneer in the residential development of Greenwich Village's Meat Market and converted the Manhattan Refrigerating Company building, now 95 Horatio Street, to apartments in 1986. The High Line originally ran through the building at the point where the Whitney installations will hang. TF Cornerstone has been a major presence in the Village for more than 40 years and today is one of the largest apartment owners and managers in New York City. Its most recent developments are along the East River waterfront in Long Island City. The company is owned and directed by K. Thomas and Frederick Elghanayan.

About High Line Art

Presented by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art commissions and produces public art projects on and around the High Line. Founded in 2009, High Line Art presents a wide array of artwork including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Curated by Cecilia Alemani, the Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator & Director of High Line Art, and produced by Friends of the High Line, High Line Art invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the uniqueness of the architecture, history, and design of the High Line and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

<i>Jeff Koons: A Retrospective</i>	Through-October 19, 2014
<i>Shaping a Collection: Five Decades of Gifts</i>	Through-October 19, 2014
<i>Edward Hopper and Photography</i>	Through-October 19, 2014
<i>Collecting Calder</i>	Through-October 19, 2014

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$20. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$16. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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