

WHITNEY

Press Release

Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street
New York, NY 10021
whitney.org/press

Contacts: Stephen Soba, Molly Gross
Tel. (212) 570-3633
Fax (212) 570-4169
pressoffice@whitney.org

FACING THE ARTIST: PORTRAITS BY JOHN JONAS GRUEN **EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 5, 2010**



John Jonas Gruen (b. 1926), Willem de Kooning, Water Mill, NY, June 1959. Gelatin silver print, 16 x 20 in. (40.5 x 51 cm), Frances Mulhall Achilles Library, Special Collections, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. © John Jonas Gruen

NEW YORK, August 4, 2010 – Located in the Museum’s Lower Gallery, this exhibition of John Jonas Gruen’s portraits of notable artists, all of whom are represented in the Whitney’s collection, has been extended to September 5, 2010. The exhibition is curated by Elisabeth Sussman.

Writing in the volume of photographs from which this exhibition takes its title, art historian Justin Spring notes: “John Jonas Gruen has made it his business to be in the right place at the right time. During his many years in Manhattan, Gruen – critic, author, and keen cultural

more...

observer – has moved with ease among dancers, musicians, playwrights, and poets. He seems, however, to have reserved a special interest in painters and sculptors. Through the years, Gruen has managed to capture many of them in his photographs. As a result, he has assembled a vast collection of portraits that cumulatively describe the artistic community of late twentieth-century New York.”

The Whitney Museum of American Art is fortunate to be the repository for hundreds of Gruen’s portraits of artists. In his fabled life, which he has described most recently in his autobiography *Callas Kissed Me...Lenny, Too! A Critic’s Memoir* (powerHouse Books, 2008), Gruen (b. 1926) tells the story of how he came to aim his camera at many of the most noted artists of the past fifty years, including Willem de Kooning, Jasper Johns, Yoko Ono, Fairfield Porter, Larry Rivers, Marisol, and Felix Gonzalez-Torres. A tireless chronicler of his time in both word and image, Gruen continues to write and take photographs.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O’Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney’s signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945 Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Jill Magid: A Reasonable Man in a Box	Through September 12, 2010
Off the Wall: Part 1--Thirty Performative Actions	Through September 19, 2010
Christian Marclay: Festival	Through September 26, 2010
Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield	Through October 17, 2010
Collecting Biennials	Through November 28, 2010
Lee Friedlander: America by Car	Opens September 4, 2010
Off the Wall: Part 2--Seven Works by Trisha Brown	September 30–October 3, 2010
Sara VanDerBeek	September 17–December 5, 2010
Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective	October. 21, 2010–January. 9, 2011
Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time	Opens October 28, 2010
Charles LeDray: workworkworkworkwork	November 18, 2010–February 13, 2011
Cory Arcangel	Opens December 15, 2010

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: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$12. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only: \$6. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.