**PARRISH ART MUSEUM**

279 MONTAUK HIGHWAY, WATER MILL, NY 11976

T 631 283 2118  **PARRISHART.ORG**

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CONTACT: Susan Galardi

 631-283-2118 x122

 galardis@parrishart.org

**PARRISH ART MUSEUM PRESENTS THREE PROGRAMS TO CELEBRATE WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH WITH ARTISTS REPRESENTING DIVERSE GENERATIONS, CULTURES, AND PRACTICES**

***Film screenings, book signings, talks, and conversations throughout March highlight Parrish collection artists Louisa Chase, Mary Heilmann, and Bastienne Schmidt, as well as Yayoi Kusama***



Mary Heilmann. Photo: BFA-NYC.COM; *Film Still from Kusama—Infinity: The Life and Art of Yayoi Kusama.* Photo: Copyright Harrie Verstappen; Bastienne Schmidt. Photo: Courtesy Parrish Art Museum

**WATER MILL, NY 2/28/2019—**In celebration of Women’s History Month,the Parrish Art Museum is presenting three programs featuring women artists of diverse generations, cultures, and artistic practices. On Friday, March 8, Mary Heilmann and Mel Kendrick will give a talk on fellow artist Louisa Chase; on Sunday, March 24, the Museum screens a film on Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama followed by a conversation with Parrish Director Terrie Sultan and collection artist John Torreano; and on Friday, March 29, German-born artist Bastienne Schmidt will be in conversation with Sultan and sign her new book, *Grids and Threads*.

“This is a terrific lineup of women artists who have a connection to the Parrish,” said Corinne Erni, Senior Curator of ArtsReach and Special Projects. “I much look forward to an illuminating discourse about what it means to work as a woman artist today.”

**Artist to Artist: Mary Heilmann and Mel Kendrick on Louisa Chase**

**Friday, March 8, 6pm**

Internationally acclaimed artists Mary Heilmann and Mel Kendrick will discuss the life and work of their friend and fellow artist, Louisa Chase (American, 1951–2016), whose work is on view in ***Louisa Chase: Below the Surface*. The** survey **features** 18 paintings and works on paper dating from 1972–2011 by the artist who provided a view into the diary of her inner life through the bold use of color in her abstract works. *Below the Surface* includes Yellow Spooks, 1986; and Untitled, 1988, two paintings in the Parrish collection, in a compendium of works on paper and large-scale paintings that provides an in-depth look at the artist’s creative approach.

Influenced by 1960s counterculture, Mary Heilmann ranks among the most influential abstract painters of her generation; her practice overlays the analytical geometries of Minimalism with the spontaneous ethos of the Beat Generation. Mel Kendrick is primarily known for his sculptural work in wood, bronze, rubber, paper, and cast concrete, which reflects his deep fascination with process, space, and geometry.

**The Artist’s Lens: Kusama—Infinity**

**Screening, with a conversation by Terrie Sultan and John Torreano**

Sunday, March 24, 2pm

Part of THAW (The Hamptons Arts Weekend)

Part of *The Artist’s Lens*, a new documentary series on artists co-presented with Hamptons Doc Fest, the Parrish will screen *Kusama—Infinity: The Life and Art of Yayoi Kusama* (2018, NR, 80 minutes, Director: Heather Lenz) followed by a conversation with Sultan and artist Torreano.

Now the top-selling female artist in the world, Yayoi Kusama (Japanese, b. 1929) pushed boundaries that often alienated her from both her peers and those in power in the art world. Despite challenges of racism, sexism, and mental illness, Kusama endured, creating a legacy of artwork that spans the disciplines of painting, sculpture, installation art, performance art, poetry and literary fiction. The film follows the artist’s extraordinary trajectory from arriving in New York in 1957 to moving in avant-garde circles that included Donald Judd and Eva Hesse. A precursor to Pop art, Kusama is often considered to have had a major influence on Andy Warhol. Her signature dot and net motifs led to *Infinity Nets*, hallucinatory paintings of loops and dots and physical representations of the idea of infinity.

Throughout his career, John Torreano has investigated the properties of real and fake gemstones and jewels—a metaphor for Vigil lights—in the differing contexts of lighting, placement, and materials. Following the screening, Sultan and Torreano (Director of the MFA Studio Art program at NYU’s Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development), will discuss Kusama, her work, and her artistic journey.

$15 | $5 for Members, Children, and Students

**Bastienne Schmidt: Grids and Threads**

**Book Signing and conversation with Terrie Sultan**

Friday, March 29, 6pm

Bastienne Schmidt (German, b. 1961), a Bridgehampton and New York based multimedia artist who has lived and worked for many years in Greece and Italy, explores concepts of identity and place through photography and painting. A former *Road Show* artist and Artist-in-Residence at the Parrish, her work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Brooklyn Museum, and International Center of Photography, New York; and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, among many others. Schmidt will discuss her artistic practice with Parrish Director Terrie Sultan, followed by a book signing of Grids and Threads—a minimalist meditation on the concept of white space and its perception inspired by Marcel Duchamp’s *Three Standard Stoppages*.

With an introduction by Museum director Terrie Sultan and arts writer Jacoba Urist, the monograph documents Schmidt’s most recent project. Part One features bird’s-eye photographs of constructed installations of colorful fabric and thread in snow. Part Two consists of mixed media works on Arches paper, where punched grid of 8 x 8 inches is divided into one-square-inch spaces, which draw light and shadow onto the white paper.

*Friday Nights* are made possible, in part, by Presenting Sponsor, Bank of America. Additional support provided by The Corcoran Group, and Sandy and Stephen Perlbinder. 

**About the Parrish Art Museum**

Inspired by the natural setting and artistic life of Long Island’s East End, the Parrish Art Museum illuminates the creative process and how art and artists transform our experiences and understanding of the world and how we live in it. The Museum fosters connections among individuals, art, and artists through care and interpretation of the collection, presentation of exhibitions, publications, educational initiatives, programs, and artists-in-residence. The Parrish is a center for cultural engagement, an inspiration and destination for the region, the nation, and the world.

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