

THE RENEE AND CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION

Spring Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I'm thrilled to share with you our new quarterly newsletter to keep you updated on our many programs and projects here at the Foundation.

Throughout the spring, we hosted a number of sold-out programs related to our 2016 exhibit, *Circus and Vaudeville*, which opened in conjunction with the beautiful show uptown at Forum Gallery, *Chaim Gross: On with the Show*. New York-based artist Stephen Powers generously took a moment away from his installation project at the Brooklyn Museum, *Coney Island is Still Dreamland (To a Seagull)*, and gave a fascinating walkthrough of our exhibit in conversation with Mimi Gross. We also hosted an incredible evening of poetry readings in collaboration with the publisher Futurepoem, featuring Edwin Torres, Rachel Levitsky, and Charles Bernstein. We were also privileged to welcome Elsie Smith, Co-Founder of the New England Center for Circus Arts, who gave an illuminating talk on Chaim Gross's circus-related sculpture in relation to performance today.

We were also excited to host our first public programs in conjunction with the SoHo Arts Network (SAN), a consortium of 18 downtown arts non-profits founded in 2015. Thanks to a generous grant from the New York Council for the Humanities, in April we hosted the SoHo Memory Project, a mobile museum about the history of SoHo, for a free public lecture and demonstration by its founder, Yukie Ohta. Yukie returned for a Saturday afternoon in May and shared her museum with our downtown community outside on LaGuardia Place. Both events were part of the SoHo Memory Project's residency at four other SAN organizations this spring, including Judd Foundation, The Drawing Center, the Center for Italian Modern Art, and Storefront for Art and Architecture.

With SAN, the Foundation also led a new initiative to network the diverse group of interns from all 18 organizations to support and encourage them as they embark on their professional careers. This past spring the interns came together and visited Judd Foundation and the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for special behind-the-scenes tours. We are so grateful to Michele Saliola at Judd Foundation and to Chief Librarian Ken Soehner at the Watson for their warm welcome and generosity toward the SAN interns. While at the Met, our interns visited Chaim's 1928 *East Side Girl*, which went on view this spring alongside works by Charles Demuth and Edward Hopper in their new *Reimagining Modernism* galleries, curated by Randall Griffey.

Finally, we are so proud that our Curator of Collections, Sasha Davis, will be the Sybil Bruel Fellow at the prestigious Attingham Summer School program for three weeks this summer. Sasha will visit historic homes and collections across Britain with 25 other fellows from Christie's, Historic Hudson Valley, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and other art institutions. We look forward to learning from her as we steward Chaim Gross's remarkable historic home and collections for our community and future generations. I wish you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan Fisher
Executive Director