

## Artists Draw their Studios

On view at the Kleinert/James Center for the Arts

October 9 - November 21, 2021



Julia Jacquette, *Studio*, 2019, gouache on paper, 12" x 16"

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Woodstock, NY – The Woodstock Byrdcliffe Guild is proud to present *Artists Draw their Studios*, opening October 9 and on view through November 21, 2021 at the Kleinert/James Center for the Arts. Invited by artist [Michelle Weinberg](#) and inspired by her practice of periodically drawing her own studio, approximately 50 artists will contribute drawings of their workplaces in a unique project that exposes the diverse ways that artists perceive their own creative work and lives.

### **Meet the Artists**

**Saturday, October 9, 2021 | 12 noon – 5 pm**

Please join us Saturday, October 9 to commemorate the opening of the exhibition. Exhibiting artists will be at the gallery from 12 noon – 5 pm to meet the public and discuss the exhibition and artwork on view. Please

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note, no food or beverages will be served. Free and open to the public; reservations are not required. Masks required, regardless of vaccination status.

## Curator's Statement

Michelle Weinberg

Over the course of many years, whenever I arrive at a wayward moment with my work, wondering exactly what it is that I'm doing, I'll make a drawing of my studio. I draw all the details that pop into view, without prioritizing any particular element over another, and I freely associate, expand, revise, fantasize as I go. Similar to the operation of viewing artworks in a mirror, or turning a painting upside down, the reversal and/or flattening that occurs creates a disorientation that usually brings fresh insights. Seeing the entire studio as a whole in one of these drawings also pulls me out of whatever rabbit hole I was scrambling down with a single work. I always wondered if other artists did this as well.

There certainly are many photographs of artists' workplaces in glossy coffee table books. Handsome and exotic, these photos satisfy a voyeuristic urge to see into the private habitats of their favorite artists. They are inspiring but are geared more toward audience expectations than the artists' own experience.

Since 2018, I have invited more than 100 artists to contribute drawings of their workplaces in a unique project that exposes the diverse ways that artists perceive their own creative work and lives. I view *Artists Draw Their Studios* as an educational project, to make visible to viewers the artists' personal motivations, selective decisions and accommodations.

"What is a workplace like when the conventional definitions of work and play don't apply?" I posed this question in 2018, when the first exhibition of *Artists Draw Their Studios* took place, in Hollywood, Florida at the Art and Culture Center. At that moment in time, I believed that an open-ended definition of the concept of work was the domain of artists. Even though tech companies touted open plan work areas and spearheaded specialized co-working set-ups, they couldn't quite compete with the range of eccentric work styles and patterns of artists.

Who could have predicted that a global pandemic would play havoc with all the norms associated with work. If I believed, in 2018, that a pressurized directive for everyone to be more entrepreneurial had ratcheted up stress and erased boundaries of work and home, public and private, these conditions were multiplied exponentially in 2020 and 2021. Who knew that working from home (the kitchen table!), virtual meetings and classrooms, tele-commuting, tele-conferencing, zoom panel discussions, webinars, parking near libraries to access wifi and other nomadic work habits would require creative solutions from just about everyone?

During the pandemic many artists were prevented from commuting to overpriced studios far from their apartments, and they fled urban centers to put down roots in rural locales. Could the white box loft/studio/gallery archetype that has spawned legendary artistic lifestyles and dominated gallery interiors be replaced with the barn, the yard, or the small village shopfront?

Some conditions have remained un-changed and are perhaps ever more super-charged. Even though shutdowns of global travel have tamped down art fair attendance, works of art are still traded steadily and stealthily among elites, as complex financial instruments in a booming market's highest echelons. We've been introduced to art as a non-fungible token, blockchain and crypto currency impresarios sidestepping the institutional status quos that formorely glued the whole market together. At street level, cultural centers have opened, then closed, masked up, then opened again. Hungry audiences demand greater entertainment or spectacle from art, "immersive" amusement park experiences like those crafted by Meow Wolf, SuperBlue, the Van Gogh Experience, "museums" of color and ice cream, retail outlets Showfields and Brookfield Place that blur boundaries between shopping and contemporary art. Simultaneously the advertisement of the artist's

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personal identity, allegiances and breakfast choices, compounded daily via social media posts and online brouhahas threatens to overtake the direct appreciation of work IRL.

With such a heavy focus on oversharing and audience approval I find myself desperate for interiority, for the unmistakable authenticity of artworks crafted in private. Where better to find this than by looking within, to the places where art is made, before works are "curated" away and out of their original context.

*Artists Draw Their Studios* is an opportunity for the public to appreciate the intimate and eccentric relationships artists have with their own workplaces, where they assert their own priorities. No guidelines have been given other than that the works be predominantly drawing. Some drawings are observational, others abstract or conceptual representations of the idea of studio. Some studios may be traditional or familiar, with easels and paint-spattered rags. Others may be virtual, existing only in electronic format. Some artists are perpetually on the move, or they divide their time and work between several places. Others are in long-term situations and tethered to home and family routines.

Participating artists: Kelli Rae Adams, Sally Apfelbaum, Sam Bornstein, Jenny Brillhart, Francis Cape, Karlos Carcamo, Dimitry Chamy, Amanda Church, Hallie Cohen, Karen Combs, Elisabeth Condon, Chris Costan, Anne Devine, Nereida Garcia Ferraz, Janet Goleas, Theresa Hackett, Kylie Heidenheimer, Carter Hodgkin, Jayne Holsinger, Sharon Horvath, Christine Hughes, Will Hutnick, Bethanie Irons, Julia Jacquette, Leslie Kerby, Kirstin Lamb, Nancy Lorenz, Judy Mannarino, Margo Margolis, Maureen McQuillan, Kathleen McShane, Portia Munson, Anne Muntges, Laura Newman, Anne Peabody, Liza Phillips, Nora Riggs, Leslie Roberts, Lydia Rubio, Donna Ruff, Bonnie Rychlak, Kristen Schiele, Polly Shindler, Jeanne Silverthorne, Karen Snouffer, Sara Stites, Mary Ann Strandell, Natasha Sweeten, Christina Tenaglia, Sarah Trigg, Rachel Urkowitz, Josette Urso, Kristiina Uusitalo, Michelle Weinberg, Etty Yaniv, Amy Yoes.

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36 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY

Gallery hours: Friday – Monday, 12 noon – 5 pm

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High resolution images available on request.

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*Artists Draw Their Studios* is presented by Available Space. @available.space

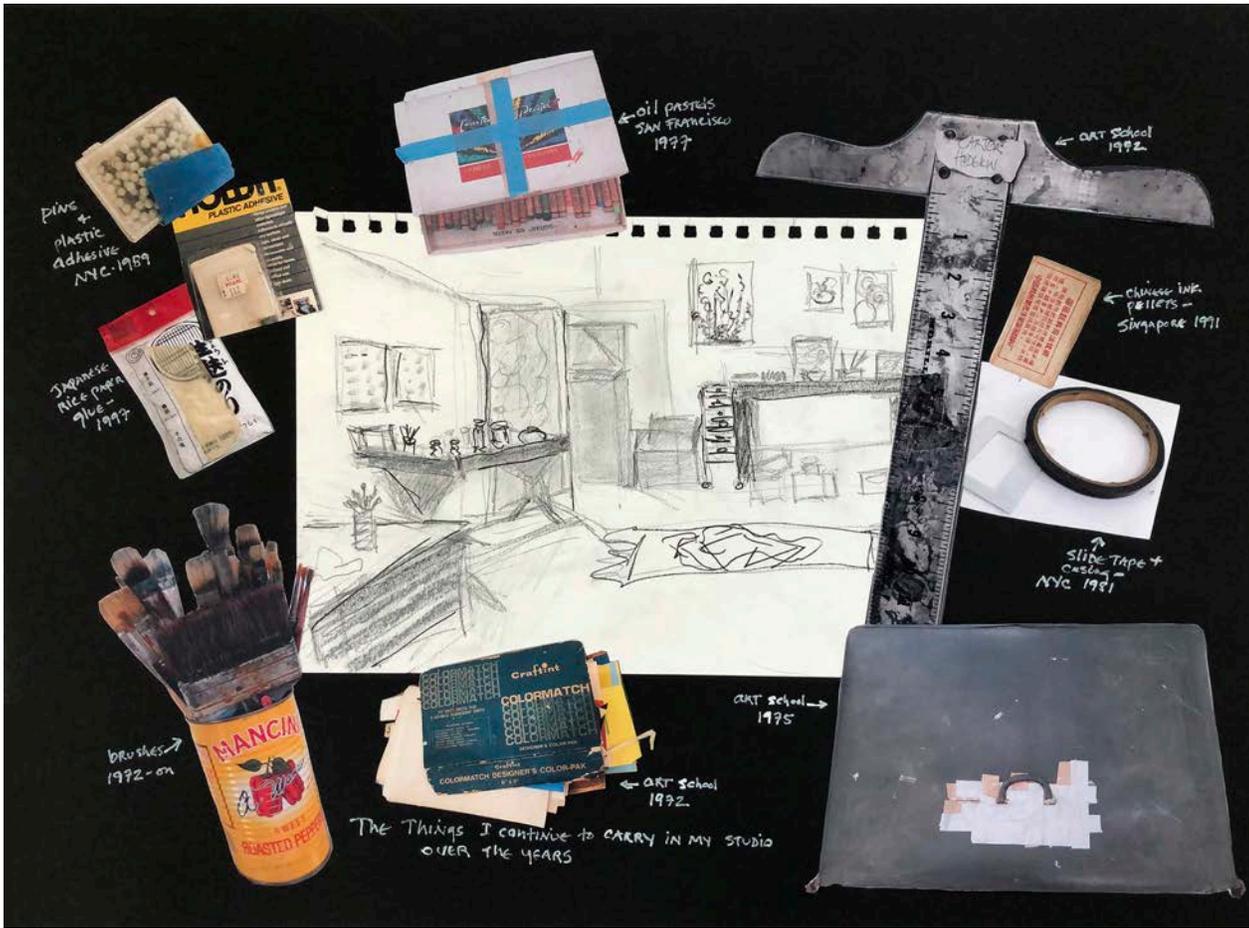
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Sally Apfelbaum, *North Wall, East Village*, 2020, graphite and acrylic on canvas, 12" x 12"

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Carter Hodgin, *The Things I've Carried*, 2021, collage, ink, pencil drawing on paper, 18" x 25"



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