

Guild Hall

OR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GUILD HALL UNVEILS TWO NEW EXHIBITIONS OPENING MAY 4

***Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture* and
Almond Zigmund: Wading Room celebrates East End Artists who extend creative
practices into furniture**



Installation view of AYN Foundation presents: John Chamberlain at Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ. Photo by John Berens.

April 24, 2025 — East Hampton, NY: Guild Hall (158 Main Street, East Hampton, NY) announces its 2025 exhibition season will commence on Sunday, May 4 with the dynamic group exhibition, *Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture*, and a site-specific environment, *Almond Zigmund: Wading Room*, on view through July 13.

Artists often come to be associated with specific mediums or bodies of work when in fact their practices are much more expansive. Visual artists are frequently also musicians, designers, performers, filmmakers, writers, furniture makers, and so on. An encounter with one of the

couches made by John Chamberlain, an artist best known for his metal sculptures, can be surprising, but the reality is that artists integrate their studio practices into all their life activities.

This presentation focuses on East End artists who have produced functional furniture as an extension of their creative practices—as a means of problem-solving, as an element of designed living, and as a way to foster social spaces. *Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture* presents work by Scott Bluedorn, John Chamberlain, Liz Collins, Quentin Curry, Peter Dayton, Connie Fox, Kurt Gumaer, Mary Heilmann, Yung Jake, Donald Judd, Julian Schnabel, Karen Simon, Strong-Cuevas, Mark Wilson, Robert Wilson, Evan Yee, Nico Yektai, and Almond Zigmund.

In conjunction with *Functional Relationships*, Guild Hall commissioned two projects as further explorations of this common practice: Lindsay Morris's photographs of interior spaces show how artists utilize furniture and shape their domestic environments, while Almond Zigmund's installation *Wading Room* in the Marks Family South Gallery provides an artist-designed environment for activation through public use and a series of programs.

This group exhibit's multidisciplinary approach mirrors Guild Hall's legacy as one of the first centers in the country to combine museum, theater, and education under one roof. Through this exhibition celebrating artists and their multidimensional practices, Guild Hall reaffirms its role as a cultural cornerstone where art, conversation, and community thrive together.

Almond Zigmund makes large-scale site-responsive installations, discrete sculptures, works on paper, and paintings that explore the interplay between space, perception, and the built environment. Her work is characterized by crisp geometry, vivid colors, and intricate patterns that often suggest walls, barricades, and enclosures. Zigmund is also the creator of Almond Artist & Writers, family-style dinners at the restaurant Almond in Bridgehampton where people come together to share and celebrate the artistic process; she has organized more than sixty-five gatherings to date. It is in this spirit of supporting the power of community engagement that Zigmund was invited to create a site-specific environment in conjunction with the exhibition *Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture*.

Wading Room houses selections from Guild Hall's permanent collection; functional, artist-made furniture for public use, including chairs designed by Almond Zigmund in collaboration with Justin Allen (Shepard Co Design); and other artist-made objects: lighting, chairs, rugs, stools, vessels, and sculpture. The artists Sabra Moon Elliot, Kurt Gumaer, Saskia Friedrich, Karen Simon, and Nico Yektai have also contributed to the space. A series of participatory public programs and collaborative projects will take place throughout the run of the exhibition.

Visitors to *Wading Room* are encouraged to linger, lounge, and interact in an artist-designed environment and to visit often to explore its potential.



Self-portrait of Almond Zigmund in her East Hampton Studio. Photo courtesy of the artist.

With programming that sparks discourse, fosters belonging, and brings joy to curious audiences of all inclinations, Guild Hall reclaims its history of spirited gatherings where creative expression and civic conversation meet. With complimentary admission, everyone is welcome to take a seat and take part.

“We are thrilled to begin our 2025 season with this multi-generational group exhibition to highlight a fascinating practice which exemplifies the truly interdisciplinary nature of artists,” shared Melanie Crader, Guild Hall’s museum director and curator of visual arts.

These exhibitions are organized by Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts, with Philippa Content, museum manager and registrar, and Claire Hunter, museum coordinator and curatorial associate.

[**Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture**](#) and [**Almond Zigmund: Wading Room**](#) will be on view from May 4 through July 13, 2025, with a member’s preview on Saturday, May 3. Galleries are open during exhibitions, Wednesday to Sunday, 12-5 PM.

Related Programs:

[Zigmund's Hook Up](#)

Saturday, May 10, 12-2 PM

[Zigmund's Show & Tell Session](#)

Saturday, May 24, 12-2 PM

[CHAIRS: A Conversation with Bob Wilson & Adrian Madlener](#)

Thursday, May 29, 7 PM

[In Conversation: Lisa Perry & Almond Zigmund](#)

Sunday, June 1, 2 PM

[Living with Chamberlain: A Conversation with Alexandra Fairweather](#)

Sunday, June 22, 2 PM

[Zigmund's Wrap Session](#)

Saturday, June 24, 12-2 PM

[Zigmund's Chair Pose - BYOC](#)

Saturday, June 28, 12-2 PM

[Zigmund's - The Final Hookup](#)

Saturday, July 12, 12-2 PM

EXHIBITION SPONSORS

Functional Relationships: Artist-Made Furniture Sponsors

Lead Sponsors: Jill and Darius Bikoff, Caroline and Robert Taubman

Special thanks to Ben Krupinski Builder LLC.

Almond Zigmund: Wading Room Sponsors

Lead Sponsors: Jill and Darius Bikoff, Caroline and Robert Taubman

Exhibitions Media Partner: CULTURED

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Dayan and Adam Lindemann, Cara and John Fry, The Hayden Family Foundation, Susan Lacy, Robert Longo and Sophie Chahinian, Onna House, Lisa and Richard Perry, Laurie and Martin Scheinman, Jeff and Audrey Spiegel, Hillary and Jeff Suchman, Barbara Tober, Jane Wesman and Don Savelson, Neda Young, and an anonymous donor. Free gallery admission is sponsored, in part, by Landscape Details.

ABOUT GUILD HALL

Guild Hall is the cultural heart of the East End: a museum, performing arts, and education center, founded in 1931. We invite everyone to experience the endless possibilities of the arts: to open minds to what art can be; inspire creativity and conversation; and have fun. Guild Hall has served four generations and introduced audiences to the most storied artists and performers of our time. As we approach our centennial, we have completed a state-of-the-art renovation to match the caliber of our artistry for twenty-first-century audiences. The facility-wide Capital Improvements Project & Campaign includes top-of-the-line physical and technological enhancements to better deliver on our mission as an artist-driven, interdisciplinary institution.

For more information, visit www.guildhall.org or follow Guild Hall on Instagram at [@GUILD_HALL](https://www.instagram.com/GUILD_HALL) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GUILD_HALL).