

Guild Hall

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Guild Hall Announces the 2025 Student Art Festival: Rauschenberg100 and Impressions Transferred: Lasting Legacies of Robert Rauschenberg

Guild Hall Brings Rauschenberg’s Legacy to Life Through Student-Artist Collaborations and Festival Exhibition, On View November 15, 2025 – January 4, 2026

September 25, 2025 — East Hampton, NY: Guild Hall is proud to announce the [Student Art Festival: Rauschenberg100](#), on view from **Saturday, November 15, 2025, through Sunday, January 4, 2026**. This year, Guild Hall joins the international Rauschenberg100 initiative, organized by the [Robert Rauschenberg Foundation](#), honoring the artist’s centennial year. As one of the most influential American artists of the 20th century, Rauschenberg’s groundbreaking work blurred the boundaries between painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and performance. His legacy now provides a unique opportunity for East End students to engage with global conversations about art and experimentation.

A beloved tradition since 1938, the Guild Hall Student Art Festival celebrates the creativity and imagination of students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 across the South Fork of Long Island. Each year, Guild Hall works closely with schoolteachers, districts, and regional artists to explore an annual theme through workshops, collaboration, and exhibition. The 2025 edition has paired students from Amagansett School, Bridgehampton School, East Hampton High School, East Hampton Middle School, John Marshall Elementary School, Shelter Island School, Springs School, and Pierson Middle-High School with 10 East End artists.

Participating artists include [Linda K Alpern](#), [Scott Bluedorn](#), [Peter Dayton](#), [Eva Faye](#), [Margaret Garrett](#), [Candace Hill–Montgomery](#), [Laurie Lambrecht](#), [Bastienne Schmidt](#), [Kevin Teare](#), and [Evan Yee](#).

Sponsored by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation—established to preserve the artist’s legacy and support risk-taking creative practices that bring about social change—Guild Hall has facilitated more than 100 workshops connecting students with professional artists. These sessions invite young artists to experiment with materials, chance, and collaboration, reflecting Rauschenberg’s vision of exploring “the gap between art and life.” The program will culminate in an exhibition showcasing student artworks alongside Rauschenberg works from Guild Hall’s permanent collection, and has been co-curated by Museum Director & Curator of Visual Arts, Melanie Crader and the Guild Hall Teen Arts Council under the guidance of Kayla Matters, Programs Manager, Learning + New Works, and organized by Theater Director & Curator of Performing Arts, Anthony Madonna.

[***Impressions Transferred: Lasting Legacies of Robert Rauschenberg***](#) will be on view in conjunction with the Student Art Festival, presenting a selection of works from Guild Hall's permanent collection, complemented by loans from friends, peers, and others closely connected to Rauschenberg and Guild Hall. Together, they celebrate his influence and legacy. The recently published book *I Don't Think About Being Great: Selected Writings*, featuring reproductions of Rauschenberg's handwritten notes, offers a compelling testament to his impact in his own words.

As we mark this moment of reflection, *Impressions Transferred* celebrates Rauschenberg as both visionary artist and dynamic connector. Through his work and through his own words in *I Don't Think About Being Great*, we are invited to observe, respond, and carry forward his spirit of generosity and innovation.

This exhibition is organized by Melanie Crader, museum director and curator of visual arts, with support from Philippa Content, museum manager and registrar, and Claire Hunter, museum coordinator and curatorial associate.

"What unfolds in Guild Hall's galleries this fall and winter reflects months of creative exploration—students taking risks, experimenting with unexpected materials, and discovering what it means to create art that responds to the world around them," said Melanie Crader, Museum Director & Curator of Visual Arts. "For many, it will be their first experience seeing their art in a museum, shown in conversation with one of the 20th century's most influential artists. We hope that students see that the community values the arts."

Artist Bastienne Schmidt worked with third and fourth graders in Bridgehampton and noted the age group "has an openness to ideas and process that is very appealing." She added, "[Rauschenberg] was always open and interested in taking in new materials and unexpected forms and objects into his artwork. The kids loved the freedom of process."

Meanwhile, high school students in East Hampton embraced a similarly open-ended approach with artist Peter Dayton, who encouraged experimentation with materials and methods: "I let them control the situation," Dayton said. "We are surrounded by water in East Hampton so it was interesting how many students went in that direction."

On Shelter Island, artist Margaret Garrett introduced middle school students to Rauschenberg through a presentation before helping them build their own mixed-media works using photo transfer, collage, and paint. "They made some really great unique pieces," Garrett said. "It was exciting to see the clarity of each person's vision."

Catherine Brigham, the art teacher at Shelter Island School, reflected on the long-term value of these artist partnerships: "This project has reinforced the importance of community. In a small school like Shelter Island, I will be many of these students' only art teacher. Having the chance to work with talented and creative artists in the community to introduce famous artists like Rauschenberg is incredible. It gives students an ownership of the work and having it displayed in a place like Guild Hall gives them a great sense of pride."

Guild Hall Teen Arts Council member Ava Poblete shared her experience: "This project not only fueled my passion for working in a museum exhibition but also made me appreciate the time and effort that others put into these exhibits."

Fellow Teen Arts Council member Ace Chaikin added: “It reinforced my belief that art brings people together, even when tastes and preferences differ. [Rauschenberg's] use of whatever-he-could-get-his-hands-on to create something was inspiring for me, and since then, I have opened up my mind about what art-making could be made of.”

The Student Art Festival reflects Guild Hall’s enduring mission to foster civic engagement and cultivate a finer form of citizenship through the arts. As the cultural heart of the East End since its founding in 1931, Guild Hall is a museum, performing arts, and education center that invites everyone – of all ages – to explore the possibilities of creativity. In 2017, Guild Hall launched the region’s first paid teen arts program, the [Guild Hall Teen Arts Council \(GHTAC\)](#), empowering young people through leadership, collaboration, and creative exploration. With the Student Art Festival, Guild Hall provides another vital access point for aspiring artists, connecting students with professional mentors and reinforcing the value of creativity within the community from an early age.

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 about Guild Hall, please visit GuildHall.org. Follow [@GUILD_HALL](#) on Instagram.