

# THE RENEE & CHAIM GROSS FOUNDATION



PRESS RELEASE

## **Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation collaborates with New York Artists Equity Association for *1947: Creating an American Scene***

**Nov. 22, 2023, New York City**—The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is pleased to announce a collaboration with the New York Artists Equity Association (NYAE) for the exhibition *1947: Creating an American Scene* (December 9–23, 2023). The exhibition will be installed at Equity Gallery (245 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002).

*1947: Creating an American Scene* pays tribute to NYAE's forerunners, some famous, others lesser known, who had the radical foresight to establish an openly diverse artists association accessible to women, people of color, recent immigrants, and the LGBTQ+ community. *1947: Creating an American Scene* will showcase works by founding NYAE members including Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Chaim Gross, Reginald Marsh, Louise Nevelson, and Yasuo Kuniyoshi, the latter a Japanese immigrant who was the association's first president. A preview of *1947: Creating an American Scene* will be displayed at the Salmagundi Club (47 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003) on December 5, 2023 from 6–9 pm for a fundraising event benefiting NYAE. The fundraiser will honor Karen Wilkin, a New York-based independent curator and art critic specializing in 20th-century modernism.

*1947: Creating an American Scene* is curated jointly by Michael Gormley, Executive Director of NYAE, and the Foundation's staff, Executive Director Sasha Davis and Collections and Programs Manager Brittany Cassandra. The Foundation has loaned 24 works from the collection. These include pieces by Romare Bearden, Theresa Bernstein, Henry Botkin, Byron Browne, Stuart Davis, Adolf Dehn, Chaim Gross, Robert Gwathmey, Lily Harmon, Jacob Lawrence, James Lechay, Jack Levine, Irving Marantz, Reginald Marsh, Louise Nevelson, Ben Shahn, Charles Sheeler, Moses Soyer, Raphael Soyer, Harry Sternberg, and Max Weber. All were members of NYAE. Additionally, there are 6 works on loan from the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) by artists Henry Billings, Ernest Fiene, Nathaniel Kaz, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, and Howard Mandel.

### **About Chaim Gross**

Chaim Gross (1902-91) was an American sculptor whose prolific career spanned seven decades. He is known primarily for his direct carvings in wood as well as his bronzes, often of families or acrobats. His work is in public and private collections throughout the United States, with a significant portion at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C. A philanthropist as well as a collector, Gross donated hundreds of objects to museums worldwide. He collected broadly, with a focus on the work of his American contemporaries and African arts.

### **About the Foundation**

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1989. The Foundation's mission is to further the legacy of Chaim Gross through high-quality research, exhibitions, and educational activities around the historic building and art collections for audiences in New York City and beyond. The Foundation is a vibrant organization that gives visitors the unique experience of entering the artist's studio, thereby gaining a more complete understanding of the artistic process. The combination of artist's studio and interpreted living space is a rare example of an architecturally significant building that contains both an artist's creative interior and his historically-installed collection in New York. The benefit of seeing art objects within their historic context cannot be overstated. Fundamentally, the interior tells a narrative about the history of American art from an artist's point of view—a story that cannot be conveyed by larger museums. House & Studio tours, offered again after closure due to COVID, deepen the visitor's engagement with Gross and the 20<sup>th</sup>-century New York art scene. For more information, please visit the Foundation's website at [www.rcgrossfoundation.org](http://www.rcgrossfoundation.org).

### **About NYAE**

New York Artists Equity Association was founded in 1947 to promote opportunities for artists and address economic issues affecting American artists. Today NYAE continues to support the professional aspirations of unrecognized and emerging artists, particularly those from underrepresented groups, by providing them with exhibition opportunities, educational programming, and a vibrant community of artists, collectors, curators, and art educators. NYAE opened Equity Gallery on the Lower East Side of New York City in October 2015. Equity Gallery simultaneously serves as a gallery for artists to exhibit their work and as a community hub for staging professional workshops and innovative programming exploring critical issues of interest to artists and curators. As such, NYAE acts to counterbalance today's increased focus on the art market by preserving an experiential space that privileges process over product and intent over style whereby artists and allied professionals may come together as trusted stewards charged with advancing visual culture. For more information, please visit NYAE's website at [www.nyartistsequity.org](http://www.nyartistsequity.org).



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***For more information about the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation,  
please contact Sasha Davis, Executive Director, at  
[sashadavis@rcgrossfoundation.org](mailto:sashadavis@rcgrossfoundation.org)***