

Media Inquiries: Angharad Coates  
 Director of Communications  
[acoates@nyaa.edu](mailto:acoates@nyaa.edu)



# Eye to Eye

Featuring the Collection of  
**Gina Nanni** and the late **Glenn O'Brien**  
 February 1 – March 14, 2022  
 New York Academy of Art  
[nyaa.edu/eye-to-eye/](http://nyaa.edu/eye-to-eye/)

Insurance sponsor AXA XL



The Academy's acclaimed exhibition series "Eye to Eye" returns this month featuring the collection of art publicist **Gina Nanni** and the late writer and tastemaker **Glenn O'Brien**. The exhibition will showcase works by Academy student artists selected by Nanni, paired with pieces from a selection of artists including Andy Warhol, Ross Bleckner, Zanele Muholi and Carroll Dunham.

Now in its third iteration, "Eye to Eye" asks a prominent collector to select works by Academy MFA students, which are then exhibited side by side with pieces from the patron's own collection, selected by the student artists themselves. In previous years, the series has featured the collections of Laura Skoler and John Thomson and exhibited artists ranging from Louise Bourgeois to Marlene Dumas alongside student works. The exhibition acts as a reflection of the collector's eye and a commentary on artistic influence and relative value.

The Nanni-O'Brien Collection encompasses nearly 600 artworks collected over 30 years, including over 50 rare Jean-Michel Basquiats. Glenn O'Brien (1947-2017) was a legendary writer, editor and critic. He served as the founding editor of *Interview Magazine* and as columnist for *ArtForum* and *GQ*, as well as editing monographs on, among others, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Dash Snow and Mark Grotjahn. Gina Nanni is a publicist for art, design and fashion, who has worked extensively with numerous galleries and artists including Laurie Simmons, Marilyn Minter and Derrick Adams.

Highlights on view for "Eye to Eye 2022" include a 1948 painting by Gertrude Abercrombie, a midcentury Surrealist collected by Nanni and O'Brien years ago while still relatively unknown, who was recently rediscovered by the art world, with *The New York Times* commenting in 2018 that Abercrombie was suddenly undergoing "a new visibility that should be coaxed into an even greater fullness." Other notable pieces in the show are a silkscreen and acrylic seascape by Sante D'Orazio, who is primarily known as a photographer, and a North Dakota scene depicted by indigenous artist Cloud Medicine Crow. Each piece in the show is paired with a student work, inviting the viewer to seek out thematic similarities or differences.

## ABOUT THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF ART

Founded in 1982 by artists, scholars and patrons of the arts, including Andy Warhol, the New York Academy of Art is a cultural and educational institution that combines intensive technical training in the fine arts with active critical discourse. The Academy believes that rigorously trained artists are best able to realize their artistic vision. Through major exhibitions, a lively speaker series, and an ambitious educational program, the Academy serves as a creative and intellectual center for all artists dedicated to highly skilled, conceptually aware figurative and representational art.



@newyorkacademyofart



New York Academy of Art



/newyorkacademyofart