

For Immediate Release

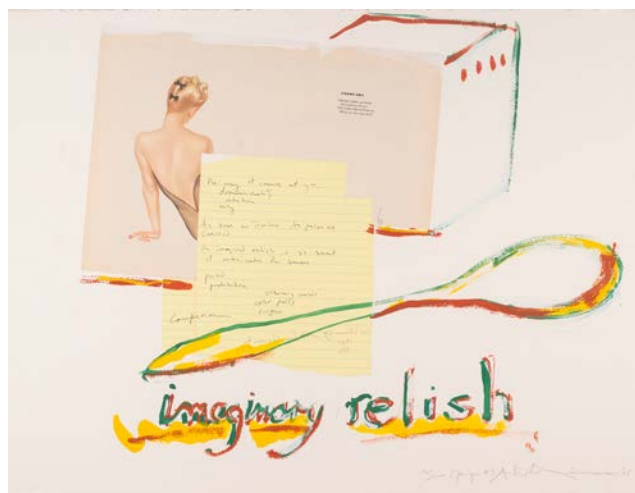
P O E T S ◻ H O U S E

A Painter and His Poets: The Art of George Schneeman

April 22 – September 20, 2014

New York, NY – March 3, 2014:

Poets House presents *A Painter and His Poets: The Art of George Schneeman*. On view April 22 through September 20, this exhibition is the first major retrospective of the painter's collaborative works with prominent poets of the second-generation New York School, among them Ted Berrigan, Anne Waldman, Larry Fagin, Maureen Owen, and Michael Brownstein. A full-color brochure will accompany the exhibition, featuring new essays by Bill Berkson and Peter Schjeldahl as well as an excerpt from Alice Notley's 1977 interview with the artist.



George Schneeman & Anne Waldman, *Imaginary Relish*, 2005.
Mixed media on paper.

Curated by Bill Berkson and Ron Padgett, two of Schneeman's close friends and collaborators, the exhibition gathers life-size portraits of poets on canvas, some of them nudes; collaborations using magazine clippings, handwritten poems, and a wide range of art materials; fresco portraits of Allen Ginsberg, Waldman, John Godfrey, and others; book covers; and other treasures from the artist's estate.



George Schneeman painting Allen Ginsberg, 1978.
Photo by Harvey Wang.

“That’s the permanent puzzle of the collaborations: what are they? I think they are snapshot X-rays of visual and verbal imagination stammering on verges of angelic eloquence.”

— Peter Schjeldahl

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1934, Schneeman began painting in the late 1950s while stationed with the US

Army in Italy. It was there in the mid-1960s that he met two New York poets, Schjeldahl and Padgett. Upon Schneeman's move to New York's Lower East Side with his wife and children in 1966, he fell in with the circle of poets centered around The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church. The works on view in this exhibition at Poets House are testaments to that legendary time and place, influenced to some degree by Pop Art, but more so by the playful, easy artistic atmosphere among friends at the Schneeman home and studio on St. Mark's Place.

“Friendship is always the best idea.

Collaborating would be okay because we are friends. Whatever we had already done and whatever we did now would be an ongoing manifestation of that friendship.”

— Anne Waldman

Throughout his career Schneeman showed work in galleries and museums around the country; in 2004 some of his collaborative work was exhibited at the Tibor de Nagy Gallery in New York. He received several grants, including the Rosenthal Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1969), a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship (1980), and a grant from the Fund for Poetry. Schneeman died in 2009.



George Schneeman & Ted Berrigan, *Ted*, 1967. Mixed media on canvas.

Running concurrently, from April 24 through May 24, will be an exhibition of Schneeman's collages and other works at Pavel Zoubok Gallery, 531 West 26th St., New York, NY. Also concurrent will be *Face Value*, an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, that will include Schneeman's double portrait of Padgett and Berrigan.

This exhibition is supported by the Dedalus Foundation.

Exhibition Events:

Tuesday, April 22:

- 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Opening Reception

Saturday, April 26:

- 3:00-4:30 p.m.: Poetry reading with Michael Brownstein, Larry Fagin, Alice Notley, Maureen Owen, Harris Schiff, Anne Waldman, and Lewis Warsh, introduced by Bill Berkson.

- 5:00-6:00 p.m.: Panel discussion with Bill Berkson, Larry Fagin, Alice Notley, Maureen Owen, Peter Schjeldahl, and Anne Waldman, moderated by Ron Padgett.

Publication:

A Painter and His Poets: The Art of George Schneeman

- Exhibition catalogue: 16 pages, full color
- Edited by Ron Padgett and Bill Berkson
- New texts by Bill Berkson and Peter Schjeldahl, with an excerpt from an interview with the artist by Alice Notley

About the Curators:

Bill Berkson (b. 1939) is a poet, art critic, teacher, and curator. The author of some thirty poetry books and pamphlets, including *Portrait and Dream: New & Selected Poems* (2009), Berkson has written for *Artforum* and *Modern Painters* and curated two previous Schneeman exhibitions: *George Schneeman in Italy* (Italian Cultural Institute, San Francisco, 2012) and *George Schneeman* (Cue Foundation, New York, 2003). He is professor emeritus at the San Francisco Art Institute and divides his time between San Francisco and New York.

Ron Padgett (b. 1942) is a poet, editor, and translator. He has published many collections of poetry, and in addition to Schneeman has collaborated with artists Jim Dine, Joe Brainard, Bertrand Dorny, and Alex Katz. Padgett edited *Painter among Poets: The Collaborative Art of George Schneeman* (Granary Books, 2004). His *How Long* was a 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry and his *Collected Poems* (2013) is a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize. A Chancellor Emeritus of the Academy of American Poets, Padgett lives in New York City and Vermont.

About Poets House:

Poets House is a national 60,000-volume poetry library, literary center for adults and children, and exhibition space that invites poets and the public to step into the living tradition of poetry. Poets House — through its poetry resources, literary events, and archival and poetry-related visual art exhibitions — documents the wealth and diversity of modern poetry and stimulates public dialogue on issues related to poetry in culture. Founded in 1985 by two-time Poet Laureate Stanley Kunitz and legendary arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, the library has created a home for all who read and write poetry. In 2009, Poets House moved into its permanent home, at 10 River Terrace in Battery Park City, on the banks of the Hudson River. For more information about these events and Poets House in general, visit poetshouse.org and join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###

To receive further information, images or to arrange interviews, members of the media may contact:

Suzanne Lunden

Poets House

E: slunden@poetshouse.org.

T: +1 (212) 431-7920 x12818