

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

Helen Frankenthaler and David Smith: An Enduring Friendship



Helen Frankenthaler with David Smith at Frankenthaler's West End Avenue apartment, 1956

Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 6 pm - 8 pm

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation
offices and study center

Douglas Dreishpoon, Director of the Helen Frankenthaler Catalogue Raisonné, in conversation with Michael Brenson, author of the upcoming David Smith biography, will discuss Frankenthaler and Smith's special fifteen-year friendship from 1950 to 1965.

Michael Brenson is an art critic, art historian and teacher. He received a Ph.D. in Art History from Johns Hopkins University and was an art critic for *The New York Times* from 1982 to 1991. His publications include *Visionaries and Outcasts: The NEA, Congress, and the Place of the Visual Artist in America*, *Acts of Engagement: Writings on Art, Criticism, and Institutions, 1993-2002*, and museum catalogues on Elizabeth Catlett, Melvin Edwards, Alberto Giacometti, Gillian Jagger, Luis Jimenez, Maya Lin, Juan Muñoz, Martin Puryear, and David Smith. He is a Getty Scholar, Guggenheim Fellow, Bogliasco Fellow and Clark Fellow. In 2018 he received a Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant. He is a member of the sculpture faculty in Bard College's Milton Avery School of the Arts and a Visiting Senior Critic in the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design's MFA program. His biography of David Smith will be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Art historian, curator, and critic, **Douglas Dreishpoon** is Director of Catalogue Raisonné at the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation in New York City and Chief Curator Emeritus at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York. His essays, interviews, and reviews have appeared in numerous magazines and journals, including *Art in America*, *Art Journal*, *Art News*, *Archives of American Art Journal*, *Sculpture*, and *The Brooklyn Rail*. Recent exhibitions, with publications, include *Imperfections by Chance: Paul Feeley Retrospective, 1954-1966*, *Giving up Your Mark: Helen Frankenthaler in the 1960s and 1970s*, and *Nothing and Everything: Seven Artists, 1947-1962*. He is currently editing an anthology of sculptors' writings, *What is Sculpture?*, for the Documents of Twentieth-Century Art series, to be published by the University of California Press. Consulting Editor and Editor-at-Large at *The Brooklyn Rail*, Dreishpoon holds a PhD from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Helen Frankenthaler with David Smith at Frankenthaler's West End Avenue apartment, 1956, in front of *Mountains and Sea*, 1952, oil and charcoal on unsized, unprimed canvas, 86 3/8 x 117 1/4 in. © 2019 Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Photo © Burt Glinn / Magnum Photos

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