

## **HELEN FRANKENTHALER FOUNDATION APPOINTS DR. MARIKO SILVER AND ELIZABETH SMITH TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Former Board Chair Clifford Ross and Founding Treasurer Michael Hecht  
Transitioning to New Roles as Director Emeritus*

**NEW YORK**—August 11, 2025—The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation is pleased to announce the appointments of Dr. Mariko Silver, President and CEO of Lincoln Center, and Elizabeth Smith, the Foundation’s Executive Director, to its Board of Directors. With these appointments, the Foundation continues its commitment to strong, visionary leadership in supporting greater public understanding and appreciation of the visual arts.

Since becoming active in 2013, the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation inspires a new generation of practitioners through a range of philanthropic, educational, and research initiatives. The Foundation continues to strategically expand its program, which includes organizing and supporting significant exhibitions of the artist’s work, fostering new research and publications, advancing educational programs in partnership with arts organizations around the world and launching groundbreaking initiatives that foster systemic change in the field.

Dr. Silver brings a multi-faceted background in the arts, higher education, philanthropy, and public policy. In addition to her leadership at Lincoln Center, she previously served as President of Bennington College and CEO of the Henry Luce Foundation. Her government service includes senior roles at Arizona State University and in both federal and state government, where she advised on global policy and innovation. She serves on the boards of the Council on Foreign Relations, the MacArthur Foundation, and MASS MoCA, and holds degrees from Yale, the University of Sussex, and UCLA.

Smith has served as the Foundation’s Executive Director since 2013 and will continue in that capacity while taking on the additional role of Board member. A distinguished curator, art historian, and author, Smith has held senior leadership roles at the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Museum of Contemporary Art in both Chicago and Los Angeles, and has curated major exhibitions spanning postwar American art, architecture, and public art. Her academic contributions include faculty appointments at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of Southern California.

“With the addition of Elizabeth and Mariko to the Board, the Foundation deepens its capacity to support the arts with rigor, imagination, and integrity,” said **Dr. Lise Motherwell**, Chair of the Board and stepdaughter of Helen Frankenthaler. “Elizabeth’s curatorial and institutional vision has shaped the Foundation from the start, and Mariko brings an expansive perspective that bridges sectors. We are thrilled to welcome them both. The Foundation also recognizes the extraordinary contributions of Clifford Ross and Michael Hecht, who will become Directors Emeriti.”

Ross, a nephew of Helen Frankenthaler and the Foundation’s founding Chair when it became operational after the artist’s death, was appointed to the board during her lifetime and served on the board for over thirty years. He helped guide the organization from its earliest years with creativity, insight, and unwavering dedication. Hecht, a trusted advisor to the artist and the Foundation’s founding Treasurer and Secretary, brought financial and administrative leadership that was instrumental to establishing the Foundation’s operational framework and long-term sustainability.

The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, established and endowed by the artist during her lifetime, promotes greater public interest in and understanding of the visual arts. The Foundation supports the artist’s legacy through educational and scholarly initiatives, including the Frankenthaler Catalogue Raisonné, major exhibitions, and partnerships with leading museums and institutions. It also supports a range of philanthropic programs, including grants for climate initiatives in the visual arts, arts education, and structural support for the field.

For more information, please visit [www.frankenthalerfoundation.org](http://www.frankenthalerfoundation.org).

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