FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ONWARD OF ART: American Abstract Artists 80th Anniversary Exhibition
On view January 18, 2016 through March 25, 2016
Curated by Karen Wilkin and organized by American Abstract Artists

Opening reception: Tuesday, January 19, 6–8 p.m.
1285 Avenue of the Americas Art Gallery
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Between 51st Street and 52nd Street, New York City
Directions: B/D/F/M to 47-50 Streets/Rockefeller Center, B/D/E to 7th Ave, 1 to 50th Street
Hours | Admission: Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Free

NEW YORK CITY, DEC. 10, 2015—The Onward of Art: American Abstract Artists 80th Anniversary Exhibition, curated by Karen Wilkin, presents recent work by members of American Abstract Artists (AAA) at 1285 Avenue of the Americas Art Gallery beginning Monday, January 18, 2016. An opening reception will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 6–8 p.m.

In her catalogue essay, Karen Wilkin looks back to the early years of AAA and its subsequent development to lay the foundation for the forward momentum of the group in the 21st Century. In addition to the works of 65 current members, on view will be works by founding and past members and archival print materials from the early decades of the group.

American Abstract Artists was founded in 1936 by a group of progressive, forward-looking practitioners. At the time, abstraction, as part of the language of modernist art, had a history of less than a quarter century and was still regarded with suspicion by many serious art lovers. The founders of AAA believed implicitly in the power of autonomous, non-representational images to communicate profound ideas and emotions. In today’s art world, when verbally expressed ideas are often valued more highly than the forms that embody them and traditional facility in representation is often admired above any other considerations, the kind of wordless eloquence that the first members of AAA embraced has once again come into question. Yet the work of many significant artists, such as today’s members of AAA, continues to reaffirm the health and versatility of abstraction. To celebrate the organization’s 80th anniversary in 2016, it seems imperative to consider not just the AAA’s distinguished
past but, more importantly, its robust present. The exhibition organized to honor the anniversary has therefore been selected from submissions by current members of works made within the past three to five years—a showcase not only of the vitality and relevance of the AAA in the twenty first century, but of the continued relevance and vitality of art that communicates directly through the eye, reaching our intellect and our emotions without words. A selection of works by distinguished earlier members of AAA emphasizes both the continuity of the organization’s concerns and its significance to the history of modernist art in American.

— Karen Wilkin, Curator

The exhibition will be accompanied by an 80 page, full color catalogue with an essay by the curator.

ARTISTS:

HISTORICAL WORKS BY:
Herbert Ferber
Balcomb Greene
Gertrude Greene
Harry Holtzman
Alice Trumbull Mason
Piet Mondrian
Ad Reinhardt
Esphyr Slobodkina
Jack Tworkov
Charmion von Wiegand