

The Florence Academy of Art opens New York Metro branch at Mana Contemporary



Photo by Kendall Tichner. Courtesy of Mana Contemporary

JERSEY CITY, NJ, January 9, 2015—The Florence Academy of Art, a widely respected atelier renowned for its teaching of classical painting techniques, announces the opening of its first stateside branch at Mana Contemporary. The new academy commenced instruction in January 2015. It is an exact replica of the original school in Florence, Italy, which also has a location in Mölndal, Sweden. Students studying in any one of the academy's three locations may transfer seamlessly between Europe and Mana.

Approximately 20 select students will work under natural light in a 10,000-square-foot studio on Mana's third floor. Students will work through the three-year certificate curriculum in Drawing and Painting, or as part of the intensive

workshops. The academy students will also become part of Mana's creative community and enjoy access to the art complex's variety of exhibitions and shared resources, such as its foundry, silkscreen studio, frame shop, and packing and shipping facilities. Studio visits by curators, collectors, and other art world professionals are also held throughout the year.

The campus will be led by Academic Director Jordan Sokol, a graduate of the program, with painters Richard Greathouse and Amaya Gurdide as its principal instructors. Each has been rigorously trained in the school's philosophy, instruction language, and methodology.

“We are thrilled to be the first U.S. location for The Florence Academy of Art,” says Eugene Lemay, Mana’s founder and director. “The prospect of introducing our community to an influx of painting students with the level of talent required by the academy is very exciting for us.”

“We’re very excited to be here,” says Sokol. “This new branch at Mana offers our students the opportunity to engage with the lively artistic community here, as well as the diverse cultural and creative influences of New York City. Through the broadening of our school, we are able to broaden the spectrum of our students’ education and their artistic vocabulary.”

About The Florence Academy of Art

Under the direction of Daniel Graves, The Florence Academy of Art has shown dedication to rigorous academic training in drawing, painting, and sculpture throughout its 25 years of its existence. The school operates a campuses in Florence, Italy; Mölndal, Sweden; and Jersey City, NJ. The program’s instructors and graduates include some of the most imaginative figurative and representational painters and sculptors on the contemporary scene. For more information, please visit florenceacademyofart.com.

About Mana Contemporary

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination dedicated to celebrating the creative process. Headquartered in a former tobacco warehouse in Jersey City, Mana unites artists’ studios, exhibition spaces, and ancillary services in a single location, facilitating conversation and collaboration among its burgeoning creative community. Together with its sister campuses in Chicago and Miami, Mana serves as a lively center for all members of the art world. Visitors receive unparalleled access to a range of art-making techniques and presentations first-hand. A transparent, comprehensive hub of creativity, Mana offers a profound, personal approach to contemporary art. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Armitage Gone! Dance, Keating Foundry, The Florence Academy of Art, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and many others.

Press Contact:
Selena Ricks—Public Relations Director
sricks@manacontemporary.com
T. 201.484.1495 ext. 672

Mana Contemporary
888 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306
manacontemporary.com