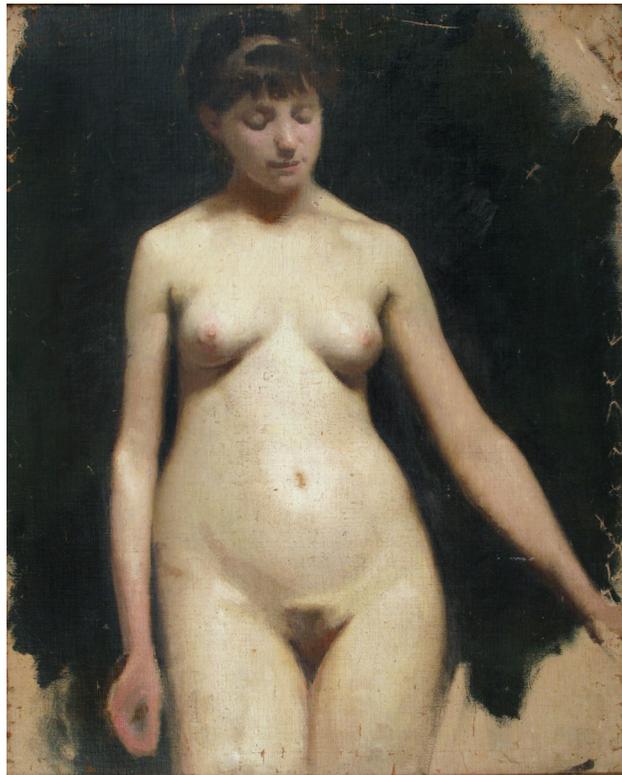


The Florence Academy of Art presents:

## Drawn to Life: Celebrating the Tradition of the Academic Nude

February 4, 2017 – May 5, 2017  
Gallery Hours: 9:30AM – 4:30PM



Abbot Handerson Thayer (1849-1921 American) *'Female Torso'* Oil on linen c. 1880

The Florence Academy of Art at Mana Contemporary presents an exhibition of valuable 19th century original works centered on the theme of the academic nude, the basis of traditional academic art training and a key element in Western art. Classical art training required budding artists to work from live models, yet elide and erase imperfections according to a strict set of beauty ideals, transforming real-life humans into timeless, idealized figures. The 19th century saw both the popularization of the academic nude and the appearance of its challenger: the

contemporary, modern nude, whose naturalistic features departed from the tradition.

This exhibition features two fine examples of female and male academic nude studies by Abbott H. Thayer, the American artist, naturalist, and teacher, as well as works by Richard Tweedy, Augustus Vincent Tack, Louis Fancher, Victor Hecht, and Dennis Miller Bunker. Each work on display is an original from the late 19th century, on loan from various collections.

### **About The Florence Academy of Art**

The Florence Academy of Art, a widely respected atelier renowned for its teaching of classical painting techniques, opened its first stateside branch at Mana Contemporary in January 2015. The U.S. branch is an exact replica of the original school in Florence, Italy, which also has a location in Mölndal, Sweden. Approximately 20 students work through a three-year certificate curriculum in Drawing & Painting, or as part of the intensive workshops, under natural north light in a 10,000-square-foot studio on Mana's third floor.

The Florence Academy of Art is dedicated to rigorous academic training in drawing, painting, and sculpture since its founding 25 years ago. The program's instructors and graduates include some of the most imaginative figurative and representational painters and sculptors within the contemporary art scene. For more information, please visit [www.florenceacademyofart.com](http://www.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 firsthand. A transparent, comprehensive hub of creativity, Mana offers a profound, personal approach to contemporary art.