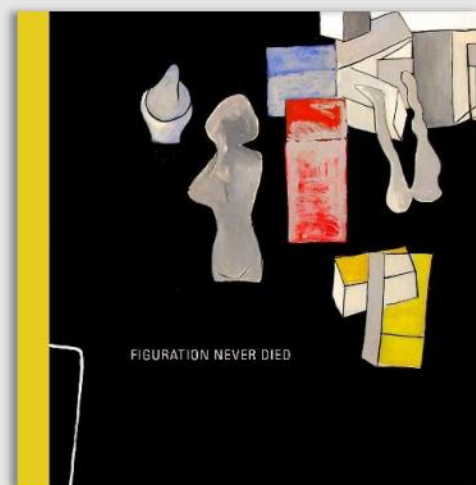
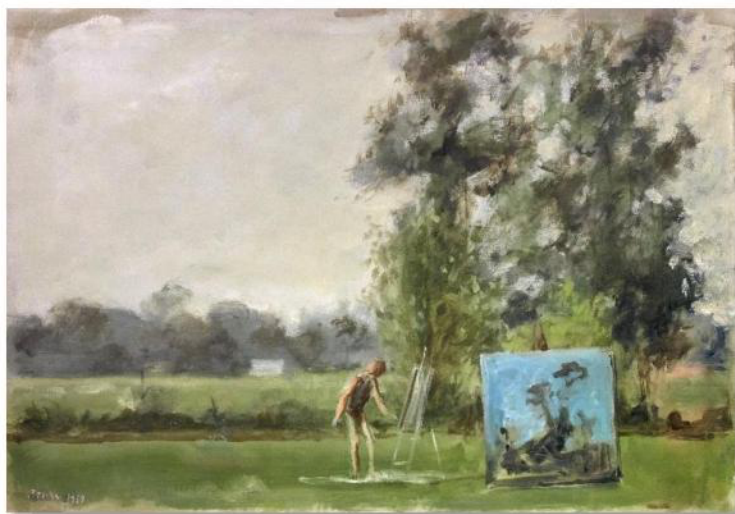


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ART + BOOKS

THE ARTIST BOOK FOUNDATION

## FIGURATION NEVER DIED

New York Painterly Painting, 1950 – 1970

*"Instead, they detached gesture from the overt emotion it signaled for the previous generation, inventing a new kind of "painterly" painting..."* — Karen Wilkin, Independent Curator and Art Critic

By about 1950, forward-looking New York painting was seen as synonymous with abstraction, especially charged, gestural Abstract Expressionism. But there was also a strong group of dissenters; artists, all born in the 1920s who never lost their enthusiasm for recognizable imagery, without rejecting Abstract Expressionism's love of malleable oil paint. Although most of them began as abstract artists, they all evolved into painters working from observation, using a fluid, urgent touch to translate their perceptions into eloquent, highly individualized visual languages. Unlike the Color Field and Minimalist artists, these artists remained, for the most part, "painterly" painters. In light of their important contributions to twentieth-century American Art, The Artist Book Foundation is pleased to announce the forthcoming publication of *Figuration Never Died: New York Painterly Painting, 1950–1970*. This publication will accompany the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's current exhibition of the same name.

These rebellious artists include Lois Dodd, Jane Freilicher, Paul Georges, Grace Hartigan, Wolf Kahn, Alex Katz, Albert Kresch, Robert De Niro Sr., Paul Resika, and Anne Tabachnick. The compelling figurative work they made between about 1950 and 1970, in contrast to the prevailing Abstract Expressionism of the time, constitutes a significant chapter in the history of recent American Modernism. Their work not only greatly expands our conception of the story of New York painting, but it also presages and contextualizes today's multiplicity of artistic concepts and processes.

Karen Wilkin is an independent curator and art critic specializing in twentieth-century Modernism. She has organized numerous exhibitions internationally and is the author of numerous artist monographs. Bruce Weber was senior curator at the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts. His specialty is in American painting, sculpture, and drawings from the late-eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Danny Lichtenfeld is the director of the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center in Brattleboro, Vermont.

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