

# 30th Year of American Art Conference set May 14-16 in New York City--with Who's Who of leading voices in American art

*Initiatives in Arts & Culture marks 30 years of its American Art Conference as US nears 250th, convening top voices to rethink how art and identity are defined.*

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[INITIATIVES IN ART & CULTURE](https://artinitiatives.com/)

MARKS 30th YEAR SUMMIT

BOUNDLESS HORIZONS: THE 2026

AMERICAN ART CONFERENCE

May 14 – May 16, 2026 in New York City

<https://artinitiatives.com/>

Click for [SCHEDULE](#), with participants' list.


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As the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Initiatives in Art & Culture (IAC) marks the 30th year of its American Art Conference, convening artists, curators, collectors, and scholars to examine important questions in American art: how do we define horizon? Who defines it? What artificial boundaries are being challenged as part of that effort?

Boundless Horizons, IAC's 2026 3-day American Art Conference, May 14-16, at Heritage Auctions, explores how artists have challenged imposed limits, and, in doing so, reshaped American cultural identity.

The speakers include a wide range of leading voices in American art today, among them Anne Helmreich, Director of the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art; Randall Griffey, Director of American Art at the Henry Luce Foundation; noted collector of American WPA photography and painting Dan Shogren (along with his wife Susan Meyer); Kathleen Foster, Senior Curator of American Art and Director of the Center for American Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and

## Initiatives in Art and Culture



Captions:  
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American artists have always resisted imposed limits. They don't just expand conceptions of American art, they reshape it."

*Lisa Koenigsberg, Founder and President of IAC*

artist Joyce Scott in a rare conversation on race, feminism, and spirituality in her work.

Wanda M. Corn, a leading scholar of American modernism, will discuss her forthcoming book on Grant Wood and American Gothic, and pioneering scholar on American Frames Suzanne Smeaton will discuss the frame choice for this iconic work. A panel on the American West brings together contemporary landscape artists Tony Abeyta and Don Stinson alongside leading scholars to reconsider landscape through contemporary and Indigenous

perspectives. Additional sessions on New Deal art and institutional leadership address the future of cultural stewardship.

Occurring at a pivotal moment in the nation's history, this program of wide-ranging talks and panel discussions is designed to expand perspectives on American art, culture, and artists. It positions American art as an evolving and essential field shaped as much by resistance to constraint as by tradition. The conference explores how American art continues to move beyond familiar narratives and expand definitions of form, subject matter, and media.

"American artists have always resisted imposed limits," said Lisa Koenigsberg, Founder and President of Initiatives in Art & Culture on the conference. "They don't just expand conceptions of American art, they reshape it. American artists have articulated a powerful truth: that our art links us to our past, informs our present, and points us toward a future that is ours to define."

The conference includes a private preview of Heritage Auctions' American Art sale, access to the American Art Fair Gala, and an exclusive viewing of The Founders of American Abstract Artists: A 90th Anniversary Celebration at D. Wigmore Fine Art. Additionally, members of the Appraisers Association of America can receive CE credits for attending the conference.

Leadership Funding is provided by the O'Brien Art Foundation and Anchor Sponsorship by Heritage Auctions.

Sponsors: The Bennett Prize, James Dicke II, D. Wigmore Fine Art, Inc., Kenneth R. Woodcock, CW American Modernism, Lincoln Glenn, Collisart, LLC, American Fine Art Magazine, The Magazine Antiques.

#### EVENT DETAILS

What: Boundless Horizons

when: May 14 – May 16, 2026

Where: Heritage Auctions

445 Park Avenue (between East 56 street and East 57th street)

New York, New York

## About Initiatives in Art & Culture (IAC)

Initiatives in Arts and Culture (IAC) educates diverse audiences across the globe in the fine, decorative, and visual arts. Embodying and informed by a cross-disciplinary approach, our primary activities are conferences, publications, and exhibitions that explore issues related to fabrication, connoisseurship, cultural patrimony, cultural preservation, and the future of culture. Particular areas of emphasis include American art, the Arts & Crafts Movement, the frame and precious substances. <https://artinitiatives.com/>

Christopher Massimine

Initiatives in Art & Culture

imagnetomorrowllc@gmail.com

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