

On View at Wrightwood 659 Spring/Summer 2024

Chryssa & New York



Critically Acclaimed Exhibition of Leading Figure of the New York Art World in the 1950s and '60s

Co-organized by Dia Art Foundation, New York, and the Menil Collection, Houston, in collaboration with Alphawood Foundation at Wrightwood 659, Chicago

WHAT	<i>Chryssa & New York</i>
WHERE	Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614
WHEN	May 3-July 27, 2024
OVERVIEW	For its spring/summer 2024 season, Wrightwood 659 is pleased to announce <i>Chryssa & New York</i> , the first comprehensive survey of the Greek-born artist Chryssa (1933–2013) in the United States since 1982. A leading figure of the New York art world in the 1950s and '60s, Chryssa developed an innovative approach to activating sculptural surfaces through subtle manipulations of light and shadow. Pathbreaking in its use of signage, text, and neon, her vastly underrecognized body of work bridges Pop, Conceptual, and Minimalist ideas of art making.

Focusing on Chryssa's output while she was based in New York from the late 1950s to the early 1970s, this exhibition presents major loans from American and European museums and collections.

At Wrightwood 659, *Chryssa & New York* will span three floors and include an expansion on Chryssa's relationship to Chicago, featuring additional works and archival materials from three Chicago institutions: Art Institute of Chicago; the Smart Museum of Art; and DePaul Art Museum.

Chryssa & New York is co-organized by Dia Art Foundation, New York, and the Menil Collection, Houston, where it was presented in 2023. The exhibition is cocurated by Megan Holly Witko, External Curator, Dia Art Foundation, and Michelle White, Senior Curator, the Menil Collection, Houston, and exhibited in collaboration with Alphawood Foundation at Wrightwood 659, Chicago.

CATALOGUE The exhibition is accompanied by the first major publication about Chryssa in more than thirty years, edited by Sophia Larigakis and co-curators Megan Holly Witko and Michelle White.

About Wrightwood 659

Founded in 2018, Wrightwood 659 is a private, non-collecting institution. Located at 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, it was envisioned as a new kind of arts space devoted to presenting exhibitions on architecture and socially engaged art, including issues facing the LGBTQ+ community, and Asian art and architecture. Wrightwood 659 was designed by Pritzker Prize winner Tadao Ando, who transformed a 1920s building with his signature concrete forms and poetic treatment of natural light. Acclaimed as one of Chicago's "hidden treasures," Wrightwood 659 offers visitors a chance to engage with the pressing issues of our time in an intimate and beautiful space. For additional information, please visit wrightwood659.org.

About Alphawood Exhibitions

Alphawood Exhibitions is an affiliate of Alphawood Foundation, a Chicago-based, grant-making private foundation working for an equitable, just, and humane society.

About Dia Art Foundation

Taking its name from the Greek word meaning "through," Dia was established in 1974 with the mission to serve as a conduit for artists to realize ambitious new projects, unmediated by overt interpretation and uncurbed by the limitations of more traditional museums and galleries. Dia's programming fosters contemplative and sustained consideration of a single artist's body of work and its collection is distinguished by the deep and longstanding relationships that the nonprofit has cultivated with artists whose work came to prominence particularly in the 1960s and '70s. diaart.org

About The Menil Collection

Philanthropists and art patrons John and Dominique de Menil established the Menil Foundation in 1954 to cultivate greater public understanding and appreciation of art, architecture, culture, religion, and philosophy. In 1987, the Menil Collection's main museum building opened to the public. Today, the Menil Collection consists of a group of five art buildings and green spaces located within a residential neighborhood in central Houston. The Menil remains committed to its founders' belief that art is essential to human experience and fosters direct personal encounters with works of art. The museum welcomes all visitors free of charge to its buildings and surrounding green spaces. menil.org

National Media Contact

Ennis O'Brien

Betsy Ennis: betsy@ennisobrien.com | +1 917.783.6553

Stephanie Markovic: stephanie@ennisobrien.com | +1 347.628.4688

Chicago Media Contact

The Silverman Group

Beth Silverman: beth@silvermangroupchicago.com | +1 312.560.4783

Louise Yingduo Liu: louise@silvermangroupchicago.com | +1 312.961.9290

Image Credit:

Chryssa, *Americanoom*, 1963. Aluminum, welded steel, stainless steel, and neon, 90 × 108 in. (228.6 × 274.3 cm).

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The Estate of Chryssa, National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens. Photo: Oriol Tarridas © Lowe Art Museum.