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
Chryssa & New York

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 Chryssa & New York, 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 LGTBQ+ 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
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