

# The Parrish Awarded \$100,000 Grant For “Jane Freilicher and Jane Wilson: Seen and Unseen”

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by Hamptons Art Hub Staff

The Parrish Art Museum has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from The Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation in support of “Jane Freilicher and Jane Wilson: Seen And Unseen”, the first museum exhibition that brings together paintings and works on paper by two notable figures in American art who lived and worked on the East End of Long Island for nearly 50 years. Both artists were born in 1924 and passed away recently. [Freilicher died in 2014](#) and [Wilson in January 2015](#).

“Seen and Unseen” will be exhibited at The Parrish from October 25, 2015 through January 18, 2016. The exhibition will reveal the ways the region’s verdant natural surroundings influenced and inspired Freilicher and Wilson, who were drawn to the vibrant artist community in the late 1950s.

Organized thematically, the exhibition spans the full range of the artists’ explorations of landscape, still life, and portraits from the 1950s through 2007. The show will reveal how each pushed the boundaries of traditional approaches to create highly individual accounts of the world around them.

“Jane Freilicher and Jane Wilson: Seen and Unseen” will include around 20 paintings by each artist plus works on paper; portraits painted of the women by Fairfield Porter and Alex Katz; and photographs by Wilson’s husband John Jonas Gruen, chronicling the women’s lives.



Jane Freilicher and Jane Wilson, Water Mill, New York, July, 1962. Photograph by John Jonas Gruen.

Both artists have left lasting legacies on art history of The Hamptons and The East End.

“By establishing a presence on the East End of Long Island, Jane Freilicher and Jane Wilson continued the region’s profound artistic tradition that spans two centuries and encompasses the most significant movements in American art from Impressionism to Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art and beyond,” stated Parrish Art Museum Director Terrie Sultan.

“Seen and Unseen”, organized by Alicia G. Longwell, Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Chief Curator, Art and Education, illuminates this focus.

Freilicher and Wilson were introduced to the region by fellow artists Fairfield Porter and Larry Rivers, who were already painting on the East End. By 1960, both women had established permanent homes in the hamlet of Water Mill, where they lived and worked within a mile of one another.

The exhibition shows how the storied light and natural beauty of the region became a primary focus of, and major influence on, the work of [Freilicher](#) and Wilson, close friends whose professional and personal lives converged and diverged over the course of the next five decades.

“Seen and Unseen” will be accompanied by a fully illustrated 130-page catalogue featuring more than 50 full-color illustrations, highlighting the most important paintings created by the artists over the course of their careers. The central essay, authored by Longwell, explores the parallels and divergences in the artists’ work over five decades. An introduction by Parrish Art Museum Director Terrie Sultan places the exhibition in the overall context of the Museum’s role in the creative legacy of Long Island’s East End.

The Gardiner Foundation provides support for projects that make the greatest possible impact on

promoting the appreciation of Suffolk County cultural heritage.

“The Parrish Art Museum has a proven dedication to the cultural growth of this region and has shown a commitment to recognize the artistic heritage of Long Island,” said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Gardiner Foundation. “This exhibition creates shared links with our local community by identifying and celebrating its talents and assets. The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation is pleased to be part of this experience.”

Sultan expressed appreciation for the award and the foundation’s support in presenting an exhibition that allows the discovery or rediscovery of the art and impact made by Jane Frielicher and Jane Wilson.

“Through its generous grant for “Seen and Unseen”, the Gardiner Foundation supports the museum’s effort to communicate the impact of these world-renowned artists to regional, national, and international audiences,” Sultan stated in the news announcement.

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**BASIC FACTS:** “Jane Freilicher and Jane Wilson: Seen And Unseen” will be exhibited from October 25, 2015 through January 18, 2016.

The Parrish Art Museum is located at 279 Montauk Highway Water Mill, NY 11976. [www.parrishart.org](http://www.parrishart.org).

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