

Grace Outreach fills an urgent need by providing low-income women with opportunities to advance their education, with the goal of achieving financial security. Based in the South Bronx, an area with the highest poverty levels and high school dropout rates in New York City, the program provides instruction and individualized tutoring by a team of professionals for the high school general equivalency diploma (GED). The Achieving College and Employment (ACE) program provides both academic remediation and the contextual skills required for college placement.

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**GRACE OUTREACH PRESENTS:**  
*Mentorship*



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Foreword by David Cohen

Chairperson: Margaret M. Grace

Curator: Despina Konstantinides

Thursday, March 4th 2010, 6:30 - 8:30pm

Metropolitan Club, One East 60th Street, New York, NY

## Foreword

By David Cohen

The lonely struggling painter battles away behind her easel in a dusty, cold garret. An indifferent culture, an intractable medium, the overwhelming challenge of making it new: these are her demons. She truly suffers for her art.

Even this romantic stereotype of an angst-ridden artist has it soft, however, compared to high school dropout single moms in the South Bronx. Art, even when it is lonely, is all about hope. And unlike economic marginalization, artistic alienation is elective. It is important to speak of the right to expression, but to spend your life making art is a privilege. The education we all need to become fully functioning citizens, on the other hand, is a human right. Artists follow a calling—they are not forced to do what they do (and don't do) by poverty and sexism.

This coupling by Grace Outreach of an artist mentorship program and their stupendous work of offering a second chance for bright, motivated women to gain their high school equivalency diploma and prepare themselves for college and jobs is inspired: not merely in a simple, passive, feel-good kind of way, but in actually having us rethink what it means to be an artist and a citizen.

This exhibition, a fundraising initiative for Grace Outreach, showcases artists brought together in a special relationship. Three emerging artists, Ryan Cobourn, Despina Konstantinides and Meghan Wilbar were paired with three eminent practitioners in their chosen medium. Nicolas Carone mentored Wilbar, David Lund Konstantinides, and Barry Gealt both Cobourn and Konstantinides. It should be stressed, however, that this exercise has nothing to do with training in any instructional sense. The “protégés” are all young artists who have already achieved some status with their work. The relationships are based on striking affinities of style, ambition and sensibility that bridge the gaps between discrete generations. We see common attitudes towards materials, the landscape subject, and the play between abstraction and realism, that is to say between personal language and observed, recognizable fact.

Artistic mentorship is a magical form of transmission because the traffic is two way. As much as the younger artist learns from the experiences, insights, struggles and skills of the mentor, so the senior artist gains from a sense of continuity, the feeling that their art, which itself is in constant dialogue with art history, has a future, too, and thus greater relevance today.

And there is something similar going on at Grace Outreach. A striking impression gained from the film about work at the center, directed by Dave Rodriguez, is of the energy between eager, determined students and an elite cadre of teachers: motivation is a current running in two directions.

Artists no longer think of *training* as an end in itself. You don't really go to art school or a university program to acquire skill sets. There are fringe benefits that are essential for life as an artist, such as forming a peer group and learning the etiquette of critical exchange. But the essence of art education is setting oneself unanswerable questions. Study is for life. The mentorship program is an invigorating booster in that realization. What Cobourn, Konstantinides and Wilbar – and all of us – can see in the works of Carone, Gealt and Lund is as much a paring down as an accretion of gestures and responses. Hard won economy is the result of merciless self-questioning.

The learning experience of Grace Outreach looks to be of a similar quality. For sure, there is a go-getter urgency in the operation. You need your GED to get your professional qualifications to get your job to earn your living to raise your kids to get them through high school. But you use those same skills to empower yourself to do so much more, to probe deeper, to challenge the status quo, to imagine change. It is in these ways that education makes artists of us all.

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*David Cohen is Gallery Director at the New York Studio School and Editor and Publisher of [artcritical.com](http://artcritical.com)*

*He is moderator of The Review Panel, the popular monthly program at the National Academy Museum.*

**Mentor Nicolas Carone** - Born in New York, NY, 1917, painter Nicolas Carone studied at the National Academy School of Fine Arts, Art Students League, and the Hans Hofmann School of Fine Art. He has taught at Yale University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Cooper Union, Brandeis University, Maryland Institute, and the Skowhegan School of Art. He was a founding faculty member of the New York Studio School where he taught for 25 years.

His work is included in numerous private and public collections including, the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Guggenheim Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art; Tate Modern; Baltimore Museum of Art; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Wash. DC; High Museum of Art, GA; University of New Mexico; Walker Art Center, MN; Lowe Art Museum; and the Butler Institute of American Art.

Recent exhibitions include, Lohin Geduld Gallery, NY; Washburn Gallery, NY; Butler Institute of American Art; SKG, Lenox, MA; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; Carone Gallery, Fort Lauderdale; New York Studio School; Betty Cunningham Gallery, NY; Norton Museum of Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the Baltimore Museum of Art. He participated in the *Ninth Street Show*; Brussels World Fair; *American Choice*, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Getai Group, Japan; Lowe Art Museum; Modern Museum Rome; P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center; Lyons Weir Gallery, Chicago; Guild Hall Museum; Tate Gallery, London; Whitney Museum of American Art; Brandeis University Museum; Robert Miller Gallery, NY; Corcoran Gallery of Art; and David Findlay Jr. Fine Art, NY. He is the recipient of numerous awards including, the Andrew Carnegie Prize, National Academy Museum; Prix de Rome; Fulbright Fellowship, Rome; National Council on the Arts; and a New York State Council of the Arts Grant. Nicolas Carone is represented by the Lohin Geduld Gallery and Washburn Gallery, New York, NY. He lives and works in NYC.

**Mentor Barry Gealt** - Born in Philadelphia, PA, 1941, painter Barry Gealt earned a BFA at the Philadelphia College of Art and completed his MFA at Yale University. He recently retired from Indiana University where he was a professor in the Henry Radford School of Fine Art in Bloomington, IN, since 1969 and had been directing the Summer Program in Florence, Italy since 1985.

His work is in numerous private and public collections including, Udine Museum of Modern Art, Italy; Brauer Museum of Art, IN; Las Vegas Art Museum, NV; Hallmark Corporation Art Collection, MO; Dayton Art Institute, OH; Toyota, Cologne, Germany; Trisolini Gallery, The Ohio University College of Fine Arts, OH; and the Snite Museum of Art, IN.

Exhibitions include, Beaux-arts des Amériques, Montréal, QC; Mark Ruschman Gallery, IN; Kunsthandlung Osper, Cologne, Germany; Midwest Museum of American Art, IN; Las Vegas Art Museum; DePauw University, IN; Snite Museum of Art, IN; and numerous shows at Indiana University. He is the recipient of multiple awards including the Terra Foundation for the Arts, Summer Residency in Giverny, France; Ford Foundation Grant; Trustees Teaching Award, Indiana University; Lilly Endowment Fellowship (Supporting travel to Japan); five Indiana University Creative Arts Grants; Alice B. Kimball Travelling Fellowship to Europe, Yale University; and the Provincetown Painting Scholarship, Philadelphia College of Art. Barry Gealt is represented by Ruschman Fine Art, Indianapolis, IN; and internationally by Beaux-arts des Amériques, Montréal, QC; and Kunsthandlung Osper, Cologne, Germany. He lives and works in Spencer, Indiana.

**Mentor David Lund** - Born in New York, NY, 1925, painter David Lund earned a BA from Queens College and did graduate work at New York University. He taught principally at Columbia University and Cooper Union as well as; Cornell University, Washington University, New York University, Parsons School of Design, F.I.T, and the National Academy School of Fine Arts. He is currently lecturing at the Metropolitan Museum for the 92nd Street Y.

His work is in numerous private and public collections including, the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Corcoran Gallery of Art; New York Times; Baltimore Museum of Art; Citibank; Ackland Museum, University of NC; AT&T; New Jersey State Museum; Delaware Art Museum; Montclair Art Museum; McNay Art Institute, TX; Farnsworth Museum, ME; the Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University; and the Fort Worth Art Center.

Exhibitions include nine solo shows at the Grace Borgenicht Gallery, NY where he was represented; Galleria Trastevere, Rome, Italy; Allport Associates Gallery, CA; University of Alaska; Wingspread Gallery, ME; Martin Schweig Gallery, MO; Turtle Gallery, ME. Included in numerous surveys of American Art at the Whitney Museum of American Art; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; National Academy; Toledo Museum of Art, OH; Maine State Museum; Worcester Art Museum; New York Studio School; Colby College; Watson Gallery, ME; and others. He is the recipient of two Fulbright Fellowships, Rome; Ford Foundation Purchase Award, donated to Whitney Museum of American Art; Childe Hassam Purchase Awards, American Academy of Arts & Letters; the Benjamin Altman and Z.W. Pike Prizes, National Academy; was selected to exhibit at the White House, Wash. DC, by the National Collection of Fine Arts. He twice served as a *Consultant in Painting* for the New York State Council on the Arts. David Lund lives and works in NYC.

**Ryan Cobourn** - Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1977, painter Ryan Cobourn received his BFA in *Painting and Drawing*, cum laude, from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and obtained his MFA from Indiana University. While in graduate school he studied closely under Barry Gealt.

His work has been exhibited in numerous shows including, Fischbach Gallery, New York, NY; The Painting Center, New York, NY; La Grange Biennial, Grange, GA; ACFA, Baton Rouge, LA; Pii Gallery, Philadelphia, PA; and internationally at Agittato Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland. His work is in many private and public collections and a permanent installation of his work is on view at Harrah's in New Orleans, LA. He is the recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant; Wolf Kahn and Emily Mason Foundation grant for his curatorial effort, *Twenty-Five Painters Under Thirty-Five*; Ox-Bow School Merit Scholarship, University of the Arts; and the M. Engel Award for Excellence in Painting, University of the Arts. Ryan Cobourn is represented by Fischbach Gallery, NY; The Painting Center, NY; and ACFA Gallery, LA. He lives and works in NYC.

[www.RyanCobourn.com](http://www.RyanCobourn.com)

**Despina Konstantinides** - Born in New York, NY, 1978, painter Despina Konstantinides obtained her BA with *honors in Philosophy* from Trinity College, CT. During undergrad she studied abroad with the Pratt Institute of Art Summer Program, Venice, Italy; Trinity College Fall Semester, Rome, Italy; Burren College of Art Summer Program, Ballyvaughn, Ireland and Indiana University Summer Program, Florence, Italy. She obtained her MFA from Indiana University. She was a resident at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT. She is currently mentored by both Barry Gealt and David Lund.

She is co-director of Prince Street Gallery in New York, NY. Exhibitions include, multiple shows at Prince Street Gallery, NY; The Painting Center, NY; and Earlham College, IN. She is in numerous private and public collections including the AIG Art Collection, NY. Awards include, Phi Beta Kappa, Vermont Studio Center Residency Artist's Grant, VT; Indiana University Research Grant, Florence, Italy; Tony Morevac Traveling Fellowship, Florence, Italy; and the Anna C. Helman award for Painting, Trinity College. Despina Konstantinides exhibits at Prince Street Gallery, NY. She lives and works in NYC.

[www.DespinaPaintings.com](http://www.DespinaPaintings.com)

**Meghan Wilbar** - Born in Pueblo, Colorado, 1980, painter Meghan Wilbar received her BA from Knox College, IL, in *Studio Art* with a minor in *French*. During undergraduate study she spent a year abroad at L'Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Besancon, France as well as a semester in Chicago, Knox College. She obtained her MFA from the New York Studio School, NY and completed a summer residency at the Chautauqua Institute Intensive Studio Program. She is currently mentored by Nicolas Carone.

She is co-director of Prince Street Gallery in New York, NY. Exhibitions include, John Deaux Gallery, Pueblo, CO; The Painting Center, NY; Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, Pueblo, CO; New York Academy; New York Studio School; Schaefer Landing, NY and multiple shows at Prince Street Gallery, NY. Her work is in numerous private collections. Awards include, the Chautauqua Institute Intensive Studio Program Fellowship, awarded for full tuition; New York Studio School Scholarship; Ritcher Grant, Knox College; and the Visual Arts Scholarship in Painting, Knox College. Meghan Wilbar exhibits at the John Deaux Gallery, CO and Prince Street Gallery, NY.

She lives and works in NYC.

[www.MeghanWilbar.com](http://www.MeghanWilbar.com)

**The following pages of color plates are in alphabetical sequence, beginning with Mentors.**



Nicolas Carone, *Untitled*, mixed media on paper, 12 x 16 ½" 2001  
Courtesy Lohin Geduld Gallery, New York / Photograph by Christian Carone



Nicolas Carone, *Untitled*, mixed media on paper, 12 x 18" 2001  
Courtesy Lohin Geduld Gallery, New York / Photograph by Christian Carone



Barry Gealt, *Waterfall IV*, oil on panel, 14 x 10 ¼" (framed: 17 ½ x 14"/44.5 x 35.6 cm) 2007  
Courtesy Beaux-arts des Amériques, Montréal, QC



Barry Gealt, *Waterfall V*, oil on panel, 21 ½ x 10" (framed: 25 x 14"/63.5 x 35.6 cm) 2007  
Courtesy Beaux-arts des Amériques, Montréal, QC



David Lund, *Cross Currents*, oil on linen, 38 x 52" 2003



David Lund, *I Have Seen the Mermaids*, mixed media on paper, 22 7/8 x 30 3/8" 2004



Ryan Cobourn, *Trees #2*, oil on canvas, 48 x 24" 2009  
Courtesy Fischbach Gallery, New York



Ryan Cobourn, *Trees #3*, oil on canvas, 48 x 24" 2009  
Courtesy Fischbach Gallery, New York



Despina Konstantinides, *Flowerbed*, oil on linen, 24 x 31" 2009  
Photograph by D. James Dee



Despina Konstantinides, *Hymn*, oil on linen, 48 x 48" 2009  
Photograph by D. James Dee



Meghan Wilbar, *Beyond Forever*, oil on linen, 22 x 28" 2009  
Photograph by D. James Dee



Meghan Wilbar, *Crimson Heart*, oil on linen, 36 x 48" 2007-08

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