

VISIONARY WOMAN AWARDS

2019 Honoree

June Kelly

Gallerist



June Kelly is the owner and director of the art gallery that bears her name in New York City's historic SoHo district. Established in 1987, the gallery specializes in contemporary paintings, drawings, sculpture and photography by emerging, mid-career and established artists. The gallery was elected to membership in the prestigious Art Dealers Association of America in 1996, and exhibits periodically in the annual ADAA art show.

Kelly's gallery represents over 30 artists. For each artist, she looks at their work conceptually, observes their process, discusses techniques and brings together a shared understanding of what they are trying to achieve. She sees her role as a guardian for the artist, pursuing connections to collectors and museums, and pushing the artist to the forefront. She has always conceived of June Kelly Gallery as a different kind of space than most, where people are not intimidated to come in, look around and learn about art.

Before opening the gallery, Kelly managed the career of artist Romare Bearden for 13 years until his death in 1988. She presented on Bearden at a 2004 National Gallery of Art event, and in 2005 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with jazz critic and author Albert Murray. She has also contributed to numerous publications on Bearden's career. In 2006, Kelly organized an exhibition of artist Hughie Lee-Smith's works at the Governor's Mansion, Tallahassee, FL, and hosted the first solo exhibition of paintings and watercolors by Noble Prize-winning poet, playwright and essayist Derek Walcott.

Kelly is a member of the Board Trustees of Pratt Institute, where she received the 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Black Alumni of Pratt. She also won The Pen and Brush's 2004 June Jordan award, and she is a member of the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, ArtTable, Inc. and Women's Forum Inc. Kelly received a BS from New York University and did post-graduate art history work at Hunter College.



Philomena Williamson, *Unexpected Blues*, 2017,



James Little. *The Difference between Then & Now*, 2010

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