

THE COOPER UNION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guild & Greyshkul

41 Cooper Gallery at The Cooper Union School of Art
41 Cooper Square
New York, NY 10003

September 16, 2026 – October 31, 2026

Opening Wednesday September 16, 2026, 6-8pm

Guild & Greyshkul is a group exhibition about the artist-run gallery Guild & Greyshkul that operated in New York City from 2003-2009. Presenting the works of over 70 artists, the exhibition reflects past and emerging models of creative exchange and collaboration amongst an intergenerational cohort of artists. The exhibition will be held in the 41 Cooper Gallery at [The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art](#)—an institution that has fostered open discourse since 1859. The exhibition is organized by Anya Kielar, Johannes VanDerBeek, and Sara VanDerBeek, the three founders of Guild & Greyshkul, in cooperation with Adriana Farmiga, dean of The Cooper Union School of Art and Yuri Masnyj, associate dean of The Cooper Union School of Art, all of whom are alumni of the school.

Guild & Greyshkul was an artist-run exhibition venue that bridged being a shared studio space and a commercial gallery. The gallery's approach placed an emphasis on reciprocal and constructive dialogue with exhibiting artists and the larger arts community. Founded in the former site of American Fine Arts, Co., it took inspiration from the spirit of collective inquiry that energized artist-run spaces of the past. As a community and a concept, Guild & Greyshkul gradually expanded, continually engaging with larger questions around what it meant to be an artist at the start of the 21st century. In many cases, Guild & Greyshkul offered a space for emerging artists to have their first solo exhibition. The founders aspired for the gallery to provide the exhibiting artists both financial support and critical dialogue that was integral to sustaining their practices, while also enabling them to create new works. Much of the gallery's ethos and programming was enacted as "learning through doing" and continued some of the rigorous experimentation and social practices that were encouraged in courses at The Cooper Union.

A related publication and public program, to be released concurrent to the exhibition will explore the ongoing relevance of artist-run spaces, collective practice, and alternative pedagogies as models for today's artists and institutions. Bringing together a diverse group of artists, educators, and thinkers across visual arts, pedagogy, and digital media, this interdisciplinary project and its resulting publication aims to be both a compendium and a guide for future collaborative models, catalyzing a more equitable and dynamic future for artmaking.

Exhibition Design and Publication

The exhibition features an installation of archival materials—including exhibition documentation, artworks by past participants, and related ephemera—presented as a wallpaper designed by Sara VanDerBeek and Cléo Sương Mai Richez. Alec Mapes-Frances and Richez contribute a new Guild & Greyshkul poster made in collaboration with the gallery's co-founders. Throughout the exhibition space there will be a varied salon style presentation of works by interdisciplinary artists working in and around the ongoing community first established by Guild & Greyshkul.

With this layering of past and present, the exhibition places the experimental activities of the gallery's past in conversation with new communities and forms of pedagogical engagement. Organized with a collective voice, the exhibition and its accompanying publication extend Guild & Greyshkul's ethos of collaboration into the present. The publication, designed by Mapes-Frances and to be released in Fall 2026, will reproduce documentation from the gallery's original operations alongside new contributions from artists, curators, art dealers, collectors, and critics, past and present. Jingge Zhang contributes an accompanying postcard to the book.

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About the Original Gallery Site

Guild & Greyshkul was started at 28 Wooster Street, the former site of American Fine Arts, Co., Colin de Land Fine Art, operated by Colin de Land there until 2001. Feeling the great loss of A.F.A. in a changing Soho, the three founders felt the space should remain activated by artists. In 2006, Guild & Greyshkul moved to 22 Wooster Street and due to the generosity of Charles Leslie and Fritz Lohman, who owned both spaces, they were able to operate there until their closure in 2009. The site is now the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art.

About The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art

The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, established in 1859, is among the nation's oldest and most distinguished institutions of higher learning. Founded by industrialist, inventor and philanthropist Peter Cooper, Cooper Union houses schools of art, architecture and engineering, as well as a world-class faculty of humanities and social sciences. For more information, visit www.cooper.edu.