Susana Aldanondo is an abstract expressionist artist working in geometric abstraction. The lines prominent in her work make reference to Latin-American culture, and to the iconic ‘fileteado’ style characteristic of the art and tango connection of Buenos Aires, Argentina. They also reference the synchronicity of life, the paths we take, or echo the energy of a given moment or sound. As she describes them: “I am the lines you see in my work.”

The line formations stand out through simplicity and color interaction, engaging the background in their interplay. She finds inspiration in the human experience, the city, memories and music, and identity and place.

Many of Aldanondo’s works are influenced by the music she listens to as she paints: tango, jazz, and flamenco. Her connection with music led to several collaborations with musicians and composers at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, Columbia University, and The Juilliard School of Music of New York which later led to a collaboration for an art festival (NADIA) fostering inclusion and diversity in Harlem, NY. She has also collaborated with a New York City based tango orchestra, and Grammy-nominated bassist and producer Pablo Aslan. Aldanondo received the Art Students League’s Leonard Rosenfeld Merit Scholarship in 2022. The work was selected by two judges who are associate curators at MoMA and MoMA PS1. In the past, she also won a competition juried by the Milken Family Foundation, the director of the Newport Contemporary Art Museum, and Colby College.

In 2020, Aldanondo participated in an arts residency in Iceland which was sponsored by the Cultural Board of South Iceland, where she was part of an international cohort of artists exploring the concepts of time, identity, compassion, and empathy. Aldanondo worked closely with the town, school, and with Litla-Hraun, the largest prison in Iceland, to help create an art festival.

In 2021, Aldanondo’s work was selected for the Rema Hartmann Foundation’s Benefit, The New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Benefit Gala, as well as the Art Students League Gala at MoMA. Her work is part of the collection at the Argentine Consulate in New York; the A. Balliro Collection in East Hampton, New York; D. Lubecki Collection in Iceland; and private collectors’ homes in New York City and around the world.

Aldanondo is a juried member of the New York Society of Women Artists, an organization founded in 1925 and recently granted historical status by the State of New York, and also a member of the Art Students League of New York.
Pin Hsin Chu was born and raised in Taiwan, she is now based in New York City, and currently lives in New Jersey. Chu is a sculptor who works in ceramics and wood carving as her main creative media.

Her inspiration comes from people’s inner soul and her previous experiences as an art teacher for children. In the process of creation, she tries not to think and design too much, but to directly express feeling through the process of creating the sculptures. She challenges herself to step outside her comfort zone when making art.

In 2022, Chu was invited to participate in the World Orchid Exhibition, Taiwan: A World of Orchids, at Queens Botanical Garden in New York. She designed the main visual of the New Year print art for the New York Economic and Cultural Office in 2021 and 2022.

He was stationed in Georgia from 2004 to 2005 and in Germany from 2005 to 2008. In 2006, Day was deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Upon returning, he started working at Art Institute of Chicago, 2008–2013. During his last year there, he studied figure drawing with David Jamieson before moving to Brooklyn in 2013. He studied figure painting with Andy Reiss from 2013 to 14 while studying at the Art Students League of New York, where he received a four-year certificate in Fine Arts Painting in 2017. In 2016, he was included in Jeremy Deller’s Iggy Pop Life Drawing Class, where a group of students were able to use the artist as their model. Day received a MFA in drawing from the New York Academy of Art in 2019. After this, he returned to the League for his Certificate in Fine Arts in Printmaking, 2019–2023.
Collage-paintings, paintings, and monotypes are the focus of Anne-Joëlle Galley’s art. She studied in Europe, joining various painting ateliers and art courses. In the late 90s, she enrolled at the Art Students League of New York, where she first became involved with printmaking. She uses various techniques and materials, and color remains her signature. Techniques include painting, various forms of printmaking, collage, and assemblage.

Galley has participated in more than 50 group and solo exhibitions in the US, Mexico, Italy, England, Switzerland, Spain, and Romania. Her first solo show was in 2002 in New York City, where she presented a series of colorful murals. In 2005, she was selected to participate in the I Biennial of Etching and Graphic Work organized by the Cultural Council of Cáceres’s Town Hall, in Spain. That year, she also participated in the Arad International Biennale of Contemporary Art in Romania. In 2007, she participated in the Florence Biennale of Contemporary Art in Italy.

More recently, in 2019, she was invited to participate in the exhibition Where I Come From: The Works and Influences of Charles Criner at the Printing Museum in Houston, Texas.

Galley is a life member and two-year graduate of the Fine Art Painting Certificate Program of the Art Students League of New York.
Stephen M Knight (American-Canadian, born 1959) is a retired US Air Force officer. He served twenty years on active duty in the Regular Air Force as an Air Battle Manager and was awarded campaign medals for Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM/CALM (Persian Gulf War), 1990-1991; and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (Afghanistan), 2001-2002.

Knight has been drawing from direct observation all his life and pursued formal training in drawing and painting after retirement from the Air Force. He earned a Master of Arts in Fine Art (painting) from Academy of Arts University in 2021, and completed the two-year certificate program in painting at the Art Students League of New York in May 2023.

He is inspired by the beauty of life and the physical world, and motivated to create paintings that prompt others to stop, reflect, and more deliberately appreciate their relationships with other humans. He draws and paints figures, portraits, still lifes, and landscapes primarily from direct observation, working in a realist approach toward a finished oil painting.

Knight was awarded blue dots (honorable mention) each of his two years at the League for both drawings and paintings in the annual Student Salons, and was awarded a merit scholarship for realism from the Henri Matisse estate for the League’s 2022-2023 regular session.
Kazuko Kobayashi is a New York based, abstract artist who lives and works in Queens, NY. Her previous career was as a hospice social worker. She worked as a social worker for 7 years before she began studying art seriously.

After deciding to leave her social work career, she received a BFA from Queens College. After Queens College, she entered the certificate program at the Art Students League of New York.

Kobayashi has a body of work that uses sumi ink (Japanese calligraphy ink) mainly on paper, combined with other mediums such as acrylic paint, pastel, and graphite. Her most recent body of work is created with oil paint on wood panels. Kobayashi is originally from Japan, where she studied Japanese calligraphy for about 10 years. She uses Japanese calligraphy techniques to create certain brush strokes that could convey aesthetic, energy, and immediacy. She chooses to paint on small wood panels because she feels that the small size works are more intimate and also makes it easier to control the brush marks.

Her artistic intention is to give the audience visual experiences that could create emotional response by using colors and brush marks.
As a foreign artist floating in New York City, being born and raised in East Asia genetically gives Chia Hsuan Kuo a different point of view to navigate through this hectic jungle.

He picked up clay in college in Taiwan, and then started out as a potter in his early career. When he won the 19th Annual Tokyo-New York Ceramic Competition he felt his identity was established as a ceramic sculptor. Nevertheless, the pottery training did not only solidify his craftsmanship and humbleness but also elevated his sensibilities as a visual artist.

“Oftentimes I render moments I encountered throughout my life and reassemble fragments from memories to structure my story of present, past, or future, at the end, clay leads me through the tunnel as always.”
Ling Li was born in China and trained in Russia to become a prima ballerina. After a career changing injury she redirected her artistic aspirations toward visual arts including painting, sculpting, and interior design.

As an interior designer of public commercial spaces, Li combined modern and traditional, natural and artificial looks to create intriguing spaces and was awarded large projects at hotels, restaurants, golf clubs, and retail venues. Her installations are found in Suzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, and Hanzhou, to name a few.

In order to grow as a painter Li moved to Auckland, New Zealand where she studied oil painting at the MIKU Art Studio. She continued working as an interior designer and also was an art staging coordinator for private and public spaces. Her interior design of Karaka Bed and Breakfast was featured in NZ House and Garden magazine.

While in New Zealand she started all 3 of her major series of oil paintings: “Flowers” oil paint featuring a variety of single or multiple flowers and most prominently sunflower fields. “Still Nature” oil paintings featuring urban, rural and wild landscapes. “Animals” oil painting featuring exotic birds, and animals most prominently of large wild cats, especially African cheetahs.

Looking for more room to grow Li moved to New York and enrolled at the Art Student League of New York where she studies clay, stone, and wood sculpting. The League did not only facilitate her mastering art expression in new materials, but it also opened her horizons in the area of art business, which she is finding very inspiring.
Graduating Certificate Program Student

Katalene (Kat) Masella was born and raised in Hartford, Connecticut. Her inspirations draw from humanity and the goodness of life. Sketches from life, memory, and imagination inform her artistic practice. Currently she is working with layers of mixed media, including oil, beeswax, casein, and marble dust.

She says of her work “I am grateful for the opportunity of continual learning and growth. I trust the process in guiding my work with the ultimate mission of invoking an experience of wonder and appreciation for this life.”

Due to client requests, her work is now on a larger scale. Corporate collectors include Honeywell International and Bang and Olufsen. Her work has received numerous awards and recognitions.

Her practice supports studios in Boston’s SoWa Art+Design district and in Gloucester, MA.

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Saema Nabeel was born and raised in Pakistan. She has been traveling around the world for more than 27 years. In September 2018, she began studying at the League with her mentor Tom Torak. Painting then became her passion.

Nabeel prepares her own canvases, preferably linen. She paints from life and starts her paintings with a loose brush sketch on the canvas. The process is done in the alla prima painting technique — painting the whole work while the oil paint is wet, often in one sitting. Inspirations are nature, color harmony, and the human soul. While working on a portrait, she feels that she is painting a human mind and soul.

Nabeel has her own work studio where creating is a personal and deeply transformative journey. It involves immersion emotional expression, experimentation, problem solving, self-reflection, a sense of accomplishment, and an ongoing process of iteration and evolution. She sees herself as a professional artist in the future.
Zoe Panya

Zoe Panya received her education from Central Saint Martin College of Art and Design, London. She is an artist living and working in New York City.

She creates multiple forms of art: mixed media, original paintings, prints, screen printing, and more and are all part of her portfolio.
Luis Romero was born in Barranquilla, a city on the Colombian Caribbean coast where historically many cultural traditions have arrived on the Magdalena River. Music and dance arriving across the oceans gave rise to the Barranquilla Carnival, recognized as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by the UN. As a child, the colors, rhythms, and costumes of the carnival captivated Romero. Later, working as a journalist and a TV presenter on local and national channels, he had the opportunity to research the history of the carnival traditions. This cultural research won many national journalism awards and became a great source of inspiration.

The resilience of the Caribbean people after conflicts gave rise to additional performative cultural tradition. This resilience explodes in abundant cultural and natural diversity which causes wonder, admiration, and gives a positive impression of Colombia on the world stage today.

Starting at the age of 10, Romero studied under Carmen Sierra Duarte — herself a student of Alejandro Obregón — at the School of Fine Arts of the University of the Atlantic in Barranquilla, Colombia. Today, he is indebted to his current instructor, Ronnie Landfield at the Art Students League of New York. Romero considers himself a figurative painter who grew up in an abstract school.

In Romero’s paintings, sculptures, and prints, the color is intense and captivating like the Caribbean. He uses a mixture of styles where abstract lines and shapes create realistic figures in geometric abstract spaces on multiple planes.

The work of Romero is part of the permanent collection of the Carnival Museum in Barranquilla, Colombia and have been exhibited in individual and group exhibitions in cities in Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States.
Kirsten Tingle is an experimental painter from Glasgow, Scotland, based in Brooklyn, New York. Since 2018, she has been painting, crafting, and imagining immersive art installations within the queer and DIY art scene in Brooklyn. Her art practice turns on obsession and iteration, incorporating humor, absurdity, and abjection as origins.

Her latest body of work interrogates climate breakdown, permaculture, urban gardening, solarpunk storytelling, and alternative currencies. This work has culminated into two exhibition projects: Art Basil and Bring and Barter Show. These exhibition projects are coupled with a daily, diaristic painting practice which frequently returns to self-portraiture.

She has shown work with The Guidecca Satellite in Venice, Italy; The Chan Gallery in Los Angeles; The New York Studio School, Phyllis Harriman Gallery, and The Living Gallery in New York; and performed at The Kyoto Arts Centre and Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
Born in 1975 in Mexico City, Jorge Antonio Valenzuela traveled to New York City, making several stops along the way, all the while developing his own personal style of photography, painting, and graphic design. Valenzuela has worked both individually and collaboratively on a number of projects and has exhibited his work in New York City’s Openhouse Gallery, Drive In Gallery, and Fuse Gallery, as well as select exhibitions throughout Miami’s Art Basel Fair. Valenzuela has published a book of photographs that he made while traveling alongside famed musician, Morrissey, on one of his US tours and has also produced a set of stickers, t-shirts, and skateboards branding Morrissey’s name in a box logo made famous by Barbara Krueger and made infamous by NYC skate company, Supreme.

Valenzuela’s love of impressionist floral still lifes like those of Henri Latour and his desire to learn the skills of oil painting, partnered with his curiosity of the League’s deep New York City history made the decision to apply to the League’s certificate program an easy one. With the knowledge he learned of the proficiencies of oil painting during the four-year program, his work took a natural progression from the floral still lifes he deeply admires to a purity of color and freedom of abstraction.

The goal of Valenzuela’s oil paintings is to achieve pure abstract form using color. Finding complexity in simplicity, playing with color, purity of shape and form, and experimental materials all applied freely to the canvas in order to achieve harmony.
Deborah Walther is an abstract artist with an interior design background. She is currently studying at the Art Students League of New York and mentored by the world-renowned artist Larry Poons.

Walther was born in France, where she obtained her degree in art and design. She worked in interior design until 2015, when she moved to New York. She founded Jumpsure, an online platform that was intended to help foreigners obtain housing in New York. While living in New York and experiencing city life, she rediscovered her love for art and became a student of Larry Poons’s master class at the Art Students League of New York. Her true passion is creating abstract art that stimulates genuine feelings in others. Walter loves to be challenged by her natural curiosity in all forms of artistic expression.

“I was scared and timid for my first abstract painting, but as soon as my hands were full of paint and touched the canvas, I felt very alive and free to let go of my emotions. I was vulnerable and liberated in the deepest sense.”