

## GRAHAM FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Judy Ledgerwood: Chromatic Patterns for the Graham Foundation*** **January 23, 2014–April 05, 2014**

In *Chromatic Patterns for the Graham Foundation*, Chicago-based painter Judy Ledgerwood creates an immersive, site-specific wall painting that transforms the first-floor galleries of the Foundation's historic Madlener House—designed by Richard E. Schmidt and Hugh M. G. Garden and built in 1901–02. Enveloping visitors in an optically expansive field of vibrant fluorescent colors with a metallic floral motif that pulsate in close proximity to the building's Prairie-style ornamentation, this installation explores the possibilities of painting as it approaches the conditions of architecture—where walls take on new meaning and function, and the surface, the possibility to produce new affects. Intentionally confusing viewers' perception of space through her use of hot color and reflective pattern, Ledgerwood prompts us to consider the divergent ways that pattern, color, ornamentation, and surface have been variously coded, gendered, repressed, and embraced in art and architecture.

Over the past two decades, Ledgerwood has used color, scale, and pattern to challenge the traditions of high Modernist painting, specifically the historically male-dominated realms of color-field painting and abstract expressionism. Ledgerwood subverts Modernist painting's hierarchy of values and claims of autonomy by employing decorative language and a lush color palette as the mainstay of her work. Incorporating references to Jugendstil textile design, personal and symbolic meaning, and proportions intended to relate to the viewer's body, she posits the strength and power of women's work and the feminine by boldly inscribing them into conversation with the canon of painting, and now architecture.

Ledgerwood's installation for the Graham Foundation questions the relationship between abstract painting and decoration—here at the scale of an interior—and in doing so explores the possibilities of ornamentation and surface in architecture. The original details of the Prairie-style mansion, such as the prominent wood moldings and stone fireplaces, not only serve as reminders of the building's original domestic function, but also frame the spaces of Ledgerwood's wall painting—the very same surfaces that were originally wallpapered at turn of the century. Fragile and temporal, Ledgerwood's installation must be experienced in situ in order to grasp its full impact.

The Graham Foundation will celebrate the opening of the exhibition with a public reception in honor of the artist on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally Judy Ledgerwood will speak about her exhibition on February 6<sup>th</sup> and the poet, art critic, and curator, John Yau, will give a talk on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Judy Ledgerwood** is a Chicago-based painter and educator. She is the recipient of numerous awards including The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award, Artadia Award, a Tiffany Award in the Visual Arts, a National Endowment for the Arts Award, and an Illinois Art Council Award. Her work is represented in public collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, the Milwaukee Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and the Kunstmuseum St. Gallen Switzerland. She received a BFA from the Art Academy of Cincinnati and a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Ledgerwood is Director of Graduate Studies and Professor of Art Theory and Practice at Northwestern University.

Concurrent with her exhibition at the Graham Foundation, Ledgerwood has completed another wall painting at the Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago. *Chromatic Patterns for the Smart Museum* will run through spring 2015.

High-resolution digital images are available on the press section of our website; email Ellen Hartwell Alderman at [ealderman@grahamfoundation.org](mailto:ealderman@grahamfoundation.org) for the press login or additional information. Press tours welcome by appointment.

# GRAHAM FOUNDATION

## RELATED EVENTS

Opening Reception with Judy Ledgerwood  
THU, JAN 23, 6-8PM

JUDY LEDGERWOOD  
TALK  
THU, FEB 06, 6PM

JOHN YAU  
TALK  
THU, APR 03, 6PM

Additional events will be announced throughout the run of the show.

For more information about upcoming events, visit: [www.grahamfoundation.org/public\\_events](http://www.grahamfoundation.org/public_events)

## PUBLICATION

*Chromatic Patterns for the Graham Foundation* will be accompanied by a forthcoming catalog to be published in summer 2014.

## ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

## THE MADLENER HOUSE

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a 9,000 square foot Prairie-style mansion located in the historic Gold Coast neighborhood of Chicago. In its compact, cubic massing the house is related to the German neoclassical work of Karl Friedrich Schinkel and his followers in Berlin, but in many of its details it clearly reveals the influence of Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright.

## BOOKSHOP

The Graham Foundation's bookshop offers a selection of publications by our grantees and titles that relate to our public program of exhibitions and talks, as well as new, historically significant, and hard-to-find publications on architecture, urbanism, art, and related fields. Located in the former dining room of the turn-of-the-century Madlener House, the Graham Foundation bookshop carries titles from an international roster of publishers as well as an extensive collection of local and international periodicals.

## EXHIBITION LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Graham Foundation  
for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts  
Madlener House  
4 West Burton Place  
Chicago, IL 60610  
[www.grahamfoundation.org](http://www.grahamfoundation.org)

Gallery & Bookshop Hours: Wednesday to  
Saturday, 11AM to 6PM. Group tours available.  
Admission: Free

The Graham Foundation will offer public tours of every Saturday at 2PM. Saturday tours do not require reservations and are free and open to the public. Tours begin in the foyer on the first floor and last approximately 30 minutes.

**Accessibility:** Galleries are located on the first, second, and third floors of the Madlener House. The second and third floors are only accessible by stairs. The first floor of is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.

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