

## Artist Bios

Alex Katz is the author of *Invented Symbols: An Art Autobiography*. Current exhibitions include “Alex Katz: Selections from the Whitney Museum of American Art” at the Nassau County Museum of Art and “Alex Katz: Beneath the Surface” at the Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art.

Jan Henle grew up in St. Croix and now works in Puerto Rico. His film drawings are in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. His collaborative film with Vivien Bittencourt, *Con El Mismo Amor*, was shown at the Gwang Ju Biennale in 2008 and is currently in the ikono On Air Festival.

Juan Eduardo Gómez is an American painter born in Colombia in 1970. He came to New York to study art and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1998. His paintings are in the collections of the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick. He was awarded *The Richard and Hilda Rosenthal Foundation Award* from American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2007.

Rudy Burckhardt was born in Basel in 1914 and moved to New York in 1935. From then on he was at or near the center of New York’s intellectual life, counting among his collaborators Edwin Denby, Paul Bowles, John Ashbery, Frank O’Hara, Kenneth Koch, Alex Katz, Red Grooms, Mimi Gross, and many others. His work has been the subject of exhibitions at the Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno, the Museum of the City of New York, and, in 2013, at Museum der Moderne Salzburg.

Vivien Bittencourt grew up in São Paulo, Brazil, and moved to New York City in 1986. She has made photographic portraits of poets, musicians, and artists, in addition to her photographs of trees and archeological sites. She has made several short documentaries on artists, including Rudy Burckhardt, Red Grooms, Alex Katz, and Kiki Smith. Her work is in the collection of the Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville.

“Figure and Ground” was curated by Vincent Katz and Vivien Bittencourt.