

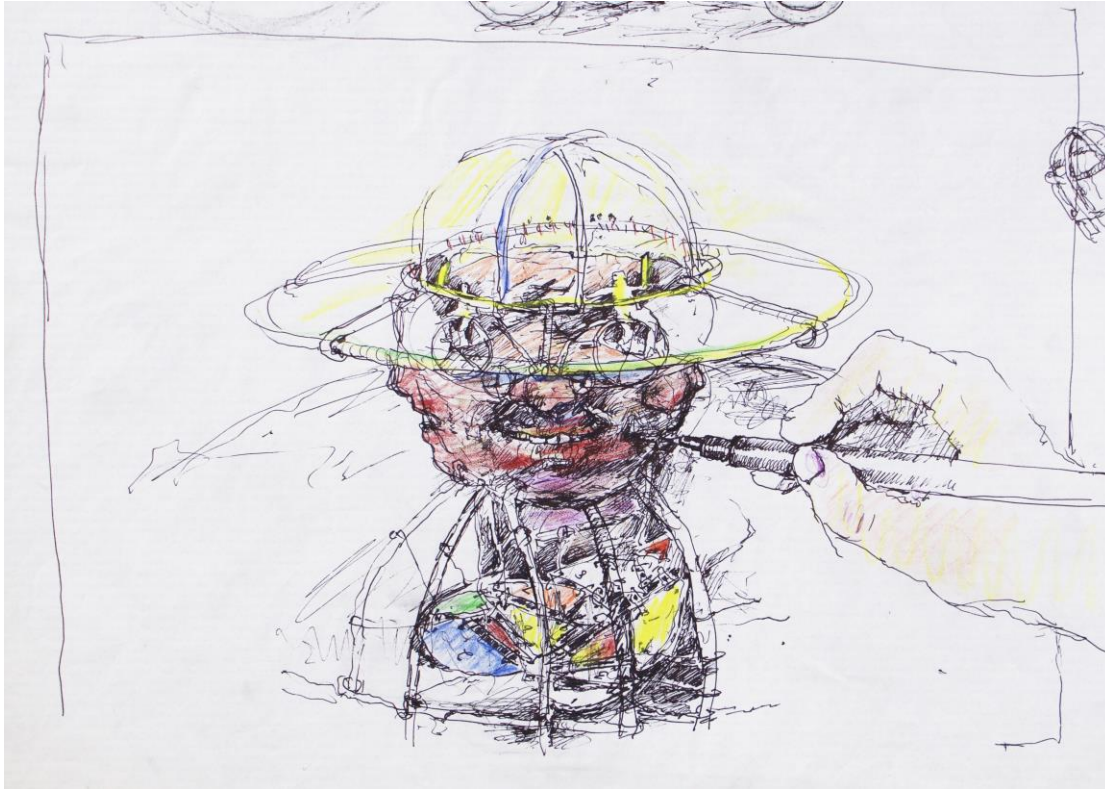
WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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MEDIA ALERT



June Leaf (b. 1929), *Mother/Ballroom*, c. 1978 (detail). Pen and ink, fiber-tipped pen, graphite pencil, rubbing, and colored pencil on paper, 27 × 21 in. (68.6 × 53.3 cm). Collection of the artist. Photograph by Alice Attie

June Leaf: Thought Is Infinite April 27—July 17, 2016

NEW YORK, April 5, 2016—Opening on April 27 at the Whitney Museum of American Art, *June Leaf: Thought Is Infinite* presents the artist's remarkable achievement in drawing over the past five decades. In addition to drawings, installed to suggest the way the works have inhabited Leaf's studio, the exhibition also includes a smaller selection of the artist's sculpture and painting. The show will be on view through July 17, 2016 in the John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation Gallery on the Museum's main floor, which is accessible to the public free-of-charge.

June Leaf's vision is deeply personal and bravely frank in addressing the frailties of the human condition. Her work falls within a trajectory of the fantastic: the fraught, symbolic mental landscapes introduced into Western art by Hieronymus Bosch and continuing in various strains with Francisco Goya, James Ensor, Odilon Redon, and the Surrealists. Leaf's imagery frequently suggests a direct and physical struggle between men, women, and unseen forces, with control up for grabs and outcomes uncertain. She often combines ink, charcoal, and chalk with acrylic paint in vibrant colors on mottled, distressed surfaces. With a skittering touch, she builds shape with an almost paradoxically unstable force—her forms can look as if they are in the process of becoming and might dissolve at any moment. Leaf lets the chance of splotches and splatters interact with more deliberate rendering, her virtuosity and control always present.

June Leaf: Thought Is Infinite is organized by Carter E. Foster, Steven and Ann Ames Curator of Drawing, with artist Alice Attie.

About the Artist

June Leaf was born in 1929 in Chicago, Illinois. At the age of eighteen, she attended Chicago's New Bauhaus, Institute of Design, founded by the influential artist and teacher László Moholy-Nagy. After a brief stay in Paris, she returned to Chicago to earn her B.A. at Roosevelt University and teach at the Institute of Design, where she received her M.A. in Art Education in 1954. She became connected to the pioneering artist group in that city, Monster Roster, and was close to prominent Chicago artists Leon Golub and Nancy Spero. Leaf taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1954 to 1958. Following a Fulbright fellowship in Paris, she settled in New York City in 1960. Since the 1970s, she has divided her time between New York and Mabou, Nova Scotia. Leaf taught as a visiting artist at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design several times over the past three decades. Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Tinguely Museum, Basel (2004); the Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover (1991); and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (1978).

Exhibition Support

Major support for *June Leaf: Thought Is Infinite* is provided by the John R. Eckel Jr. Foundation.

About the Whitney Museum of American Art

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today. For more information, visit whitney.org.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

<i>June Leaf: Thought is Infinite</i>	Through July 17 2016
<i>Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection</i>	Through Feb 12, 2017
<i>Mirror Cells</i>	May 13–Aug 21, 2016
<i>Stuart Davis: In Full Swing</i>	June 10–Sept 25, 2016
<i>Virginia Overton: Sculpture Gardens</i>	June 10–Sept 25, 2016
<i>Danny Lyon: Message to the Future</i>	June 17–Sept 25, 2016
<i>Sophia Al-Maria: Black Friday</i>	July 26–Oct 31, 2016
<i>Carmen Herrera</i>	Sept 16, 2016–Jan 2, 2017
<i>Dreamlands: Immersive Cinema and Art, 1905-2016</i>	Oct 28, 2016–Feb 5, 2017
<i>Whitney Biennial</i>	Spring 2017
<i>David Wojnarowicz: History Keeps Me Awake at Night</i>	Spring 2018

The Whitney Museum is located at 99 Gansevoort Street between Washington and West Streets, New York City. Museum hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 6 pm, Friday and Saturday from 10:30 am to 10 pm, closed Tuesday (in July and August the Museum will open on Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 6 pm). Adult tickets: \$22; full-time students and visitors 65 & over: \$18; visitors 18 and under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 7–10 pm. As of June 10, same-day adult admission tickets will be \$25; advance tickets purchased via whitney.org will remain \$22 for adults and be discounted to \$17 for full-time students and visitors 65 & over (same-day tickets are not available on whitney.org). For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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