

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation





Chaim Gross (1904–1991) is renowned for his direct wood carvings of circus performers, dancers, and intimate mother and child pairings. Gross created these subjects in a style that combined modernist, African, and folk forms. His art emerged from a rich Eastern European background and solid artistic training, first in Budapest and Vienna, and then in New York City.

Cover: Chaim Gross with *Girl in Kimono* (1937). Lewis Jacobs, photographer. Left: Chaim Gross carving *Black Figure* at the Cummington School, Cummington, Mass., 1935. Ruth Weller, photographer.

Born in 1904 in the province of Galicia (then under the administration of the Austro-Hungarian government), Gross emigrated as a teenager from war torn Europe in 1921. Soon after arriving in the U.S. he first studied painting and then sculpture at the Educational Alliance on the Lower East Side. There he came to know painters Moses and Raphael Soyer, Peter Blume, Adolph Gottlieb, and many other key 20th-century New York artists. Gross then expanded upon his study of sculpture with Robert Laurent at the Art Students League and Elie Nadelman at the Beaux-Arts Institute of Design. After his first solo show in New York in 1932 at Gallery 144, Gross's works were soon acquired by major Manhattan and American museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Today, the largest body of Gross's sculpture in a public collection is at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington D.C. Around 1950 Gross's primary medium became bronze, which he used on both an intimate and large scale; his outdoor *The Family* (1979) continues to be a beloved fixture at the intersection of Bleecker and West 11th Streets in Greenwich Village. In the early 1960s Gross added lithography to his studio practice and created luminous and profound renderings of historic and modern Judaic subjects. Drawing was also central to Gross's work process, and today hundreds of his sculpture studies and sketchbooks are housed at the Foundation.



Top right: Chaim Gross drawing in the studio, 526 LaGuardia Place, New York City, 1973. Bottom right: Chaim Gross's sculpture studio, 526 LaGuardia Place, New York City, 2009. Photograph courtesy Sotheby's, Inc.

Sculpture gallery of works by Chaim Gross, 526 LaGuardia Place,
New York City, 2009. Photograph courtesy Sotheby's, Inc.





The Building and Studio

Chaim and Renee Gross purchased 526 LaGuardia Place in 1963, after living and raising their two children (artist Mimi Gross and engineer Yehudah Gross) on the Upper West Side for over twenty years. The four-story brick building, located just south of Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village in the heart of New York University's campus, was originally a classic 1830s townhouse with a grand late Federal doorway. In the 1880s it was adapted to industrial loft-style usage, with an overlay of neo-Grecian decorations and cast iron loft features. The Grosses converted the building back to residential living, while also adding the sculpture studio on the ground floor. The studio, which remains as it was during Gross's lifetime, is the only space of its kind in New York City. It was designed by Gross himself, who laid in the intricate wood floor and constructed the dramatic skylight. The studio exhibits major wood and marble carvings spanning sixty years, and is a testament to the life and process of the artist. The studio on the ground floor leads to a permanent installation of Gross's sculpture from the 1920s through the 1980s on the building's first floor. The second floor houses an intimate temporary exhibition space, library, and archive, while the third floor remains a semi-private dining and living area featuring a period, Salon-style installation of the Gross's extensive European, American, African, and Pre-Columbian art collections.

Living Room of Renee and Chaim Gross, 526 LaGuardia Place, New York City, 2009. Photography courtesy Sotheby's, Inc.

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in New York State in 1988. Founded by American sculptor Chaim Gross (1904-91) and his wife Renee, the Foundation exhibits Gross's sculpture and drawings in the couple's Greenwich Village townhouse at 526 LaGuardia Place. The Foundation also organizes cultural activities and encourages visitors to actively engage with the Studio space and extensive art collections. The Foundation's initiatives include interdisciplinary programs, special events and exhibitions, and are organized around topics related to Gross and his contemporaries.

The Foundation relies heavily on private support for its operations, collection care, exhibitions, and educational programs. Please consider donating to continue the legacy of Chaim Gross. Contributions may be sent via our website or to the address below.



The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation

526 LaGuardia Place, New York, NY 10012

(212) 529-4906

www.rcgrossfoundation.org

Top right: Chaim and Renee Gross in their home at 526 LaGuardia Place, New York City, c. 1980. Bottom right: Chaim Gross's sculpture studio, 526 LaGuardia Place, New York City, 2009. Photograph courtesy Sotheby's, Inc. Back: Chaim Gross with *Lindbergh Family*, 1932.



