



american dance festival

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AMERICAN DANCE FESTIVAL DEDICATES 2011 SEASON TO ALEX KATZ

Durham, NC, May 11, 2011 – The **American Dance Festival (ADF)** is pleased to dedicate its 78th season to acclaimed visual artist, **Alex Katz**. Mr. Katz is a long-time friend and supporter of the ADF, having created nine season posters since 1979, including the 2011 season poster. The ceremony will be held June 10 at 8pm prior to the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company performance at the Durham Performing Arts Center.

Alex Katz’s prolific career as a painter, sculptor, and designer has garnered him great national and international acclaim for over five decades. Famous for his large-scale paintings, his style is marked by a stark realism of landscapes and portraiture that embrace flatness and highlights the two-dimensional nature of paintings. Katz’s deep love and appreciation of the arts extended into dance, and has been expressed through the numerous portraits of dancers that he has created both for the ADF and many other artists and choreographers.

Born in 1927 in Brooklyn, New York, Katz’s childhood flourished with arts influence, and upon graduating from the prestigious Cooper Union Art School in Manhattan, he went on to study at the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture in Maine. According to Katz, it was in Maine that he found a reason to devote his life to painting, as he learned how to paint from reality. This lesson proved pivotal in his development as a painter, as his figurative style of painting anticipated Pop Art and quickly separated him from the gestural painters and the New Perceptual Realism.

Katz’s large-scale paintings have greatly developed throughout the years, ranging from the portrayal of painters, poets, and dancers to the numerous variations of landscapes influenced by his summers in Maine. In addition, Katz’s relationship with renowned choreographers, including Paul Taylor, led to integrating his masterful artistic concepts into their costumes and sets. His works have been the subject of more than 200 solo exhibitions and nearly 500 group exhibitions since 1951. In 1996 the Paul J. Schupf Wing for the Works of Alex Katz opened at the Colby College Museum of Art, one of the few wings of a museum devoted solely to the work of a single living artist.

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His works can be found in 100 public collections worldwide including in Chicago, Pittsburgh, New York, Austria, Finland, Germany, Japan, England, and Spain, among many others.

About the 2011 ADF Season

Performances during the ADF's 78th season will be presented at the Durham Performing Arts Center and Reynolds Industries Theater, as well as the Sarah P. Duke Gardens from June 9 – July 23. The 2011 Festival, entitled *Something New, Something Treasured* will celebrate the best in modern dance, both past and present. For detailed information about the 2011 Festival, the ADF School, community programs, and ticketing, please visit www.americandancefestival.org.

About ADF:

Founded in 1934 in Bennington, Vermont, the ADF remains an international magnet for choreographers, dancers, teachers, students, critics, musicians, and scholars to learn and create in a supportive environment. The ADF's wide range of programs includes performances, artist services, humanities projects, publications, community outreach, educational programs and classes, archives, media projects, and national and international projects. The ADF has been presenting the best in modern dance for over 77 years. www.americandancefestival.org.

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