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Lucy Rees, "Ross Bleckner Opens Two Must-See Exhibitions in the Hamptons" *Galerie*, August 18, 2026.

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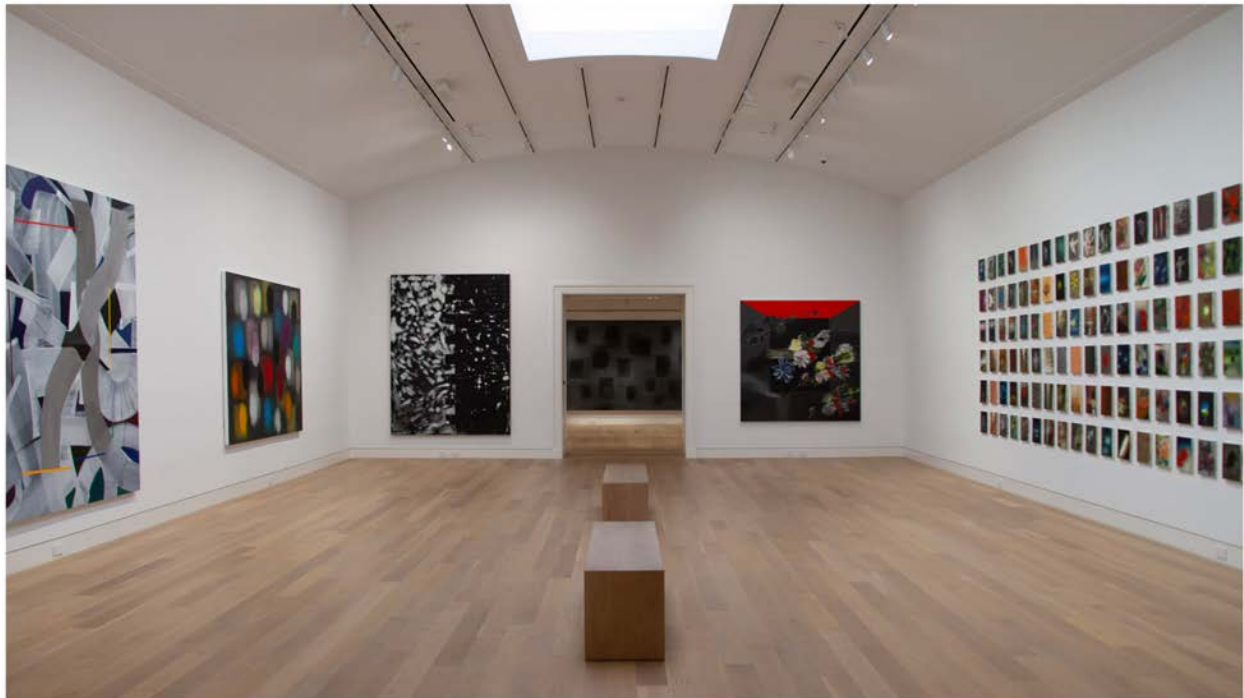
ART & CULTURE

Ross Bleckner Opens Two Must-See Exhibitions in the Hamptons

The dual displays celebrate the power of artistic freedom, chance-taking, and experimentation

BY LUCY REES

AUGUST 18, 2026



Installation view "Ross Bleckner: Never The Less," at Guild Hall.
PHOTO: COURTESY OF GUILD HALL

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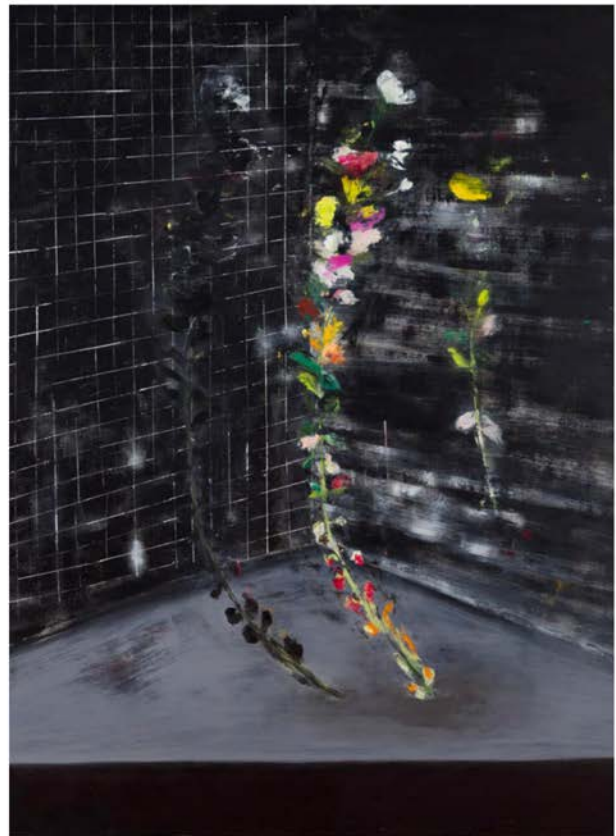
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This month, Long Island's **East End** celebrates one of its most iconic artistic voices with a pair of fascinating exhibitions at **The Madoo Conservancy** in Sagaponack and at **Guild Hall** in East Hampton.

Recognized for his trailblazing artistic vision, **Ross Bleckner**, who emerged during the 1980s AIDS crisis, has spent decades creating poignant, haunting works that explore themes of loss, memory, transformation, and the human condition. These two concurrent summer shows now offer a rare glimpse into the behind-the-scenes processes of his meticulous studio practice.



Ross Bleckner, *Untitled*, (2017).
PHOTO: COURTESY OF GUILD HALL



Ross Bleckner *Burn Painting (Rooms Combined to Cheer)* (2020).
PHOTO: COURTESY OF GUILD HALL

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In East Hampton, Guild Hall presents "Ross Bleckner: Never The Less," an expansive survey delving into a lesser-known dimension of the painter's process. Bleckner famously formulates his own pigments, testing experimental brushwork directly onto black paper before scaling up to small canvases and, ultimately, the monumental, glowing paintings for which he is best known. By pairing these rarely seen studies with the large-scale canvases, Guild Hall spotlights the transformative power of his process.



Installation view "Ross Bleckner: Never The Less," at Guild Hall.
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"The use of the black paper is a way for me to test the paint that I make with wax and different pigments. I'm seeing how much light I could get out of the pigment," says Bleckner, whose sprawling 4,500-square-foot studio is located in Springs, a historic artists' hamlet in East Hampton. "When I'm done with the testing, I also see if those marks could be turned into a drawing or small painting."



Installation view, "Ross Bleckner: Mind of My Body," at Madoo Conservancy.
PHOTO: GARY MAMAY, COURTESY THE MADOO CONSERVANCY

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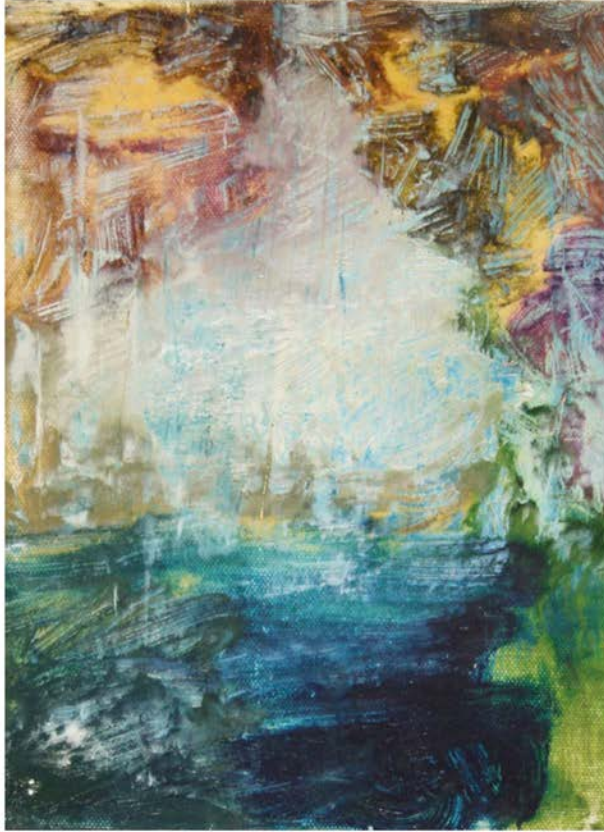
Meanwhile, at the Madoo Conservancy in Sagaponack, “Ross Bleckner: Mind of My Body” marks the artist’s first dedicated exhibition of works on paper. Set within the storied **garden** sanctuary created by artist **Robert Dash** in 1967, the show also highlights Bleckner’s delicate scribbles and tracings on paper—a rarely seen medium that captures his raw creative impulses.

For Bleckner, displaying these abstractions within the context of Madoo is a natural one. “My work does have to do with plant life and landscape—it just might be more abstract,” he shares. “The idea of Giverny and **Monet** and Manet is very important to me. As painters, their place has a significant influence on their work, so hopefully there’s a similar symbiosis between my work and Madoo.”

Together, the dual exhibitions celebrate the power of artistic freedom, chance-taking, and experimentation.

‘Ross Bleckner: Mind of My Body’ is on view at The Madoo Conservancy, Sagaponack; ‘Ross Bleckner: Never The Less’ is on view at Guild Hall, East Hampton.

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Ross Bleckner *Untitled*, (1984).
PHOTO: COURTESY OF GUILD HALL



Ross Bleckner *Untitled*, (1994).
PHOTO: COURTESY OF GUILD HALL

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