

# HYPHEN



June Leaf in her NYC studio, 2004. Photo: Ed Grazda

## June Leaf at FRIEZE NY 2020

*"Leaf's view of the world is one of inter-relating public and private theaters of existence."* – Dennis Adrian

A survey of work by legendary artist **June Leaf** will be featured in the Frieze 2020 "Tribute to Chicago Women Artists" in a presentation organized by the **Smart Museum of Art** in collaboration with **Hyphen**, the artist's representative. With a career spanning seven decades, the artist relentlessly reflects the human condition in all its theatricality and complexity. An inventor with an insatiable curiosity for the mechanics of the world in which we live, Leaf's images of human-machine hybrids and hand-operated kinetic sculptures are woven throughout her singular artistic practice.

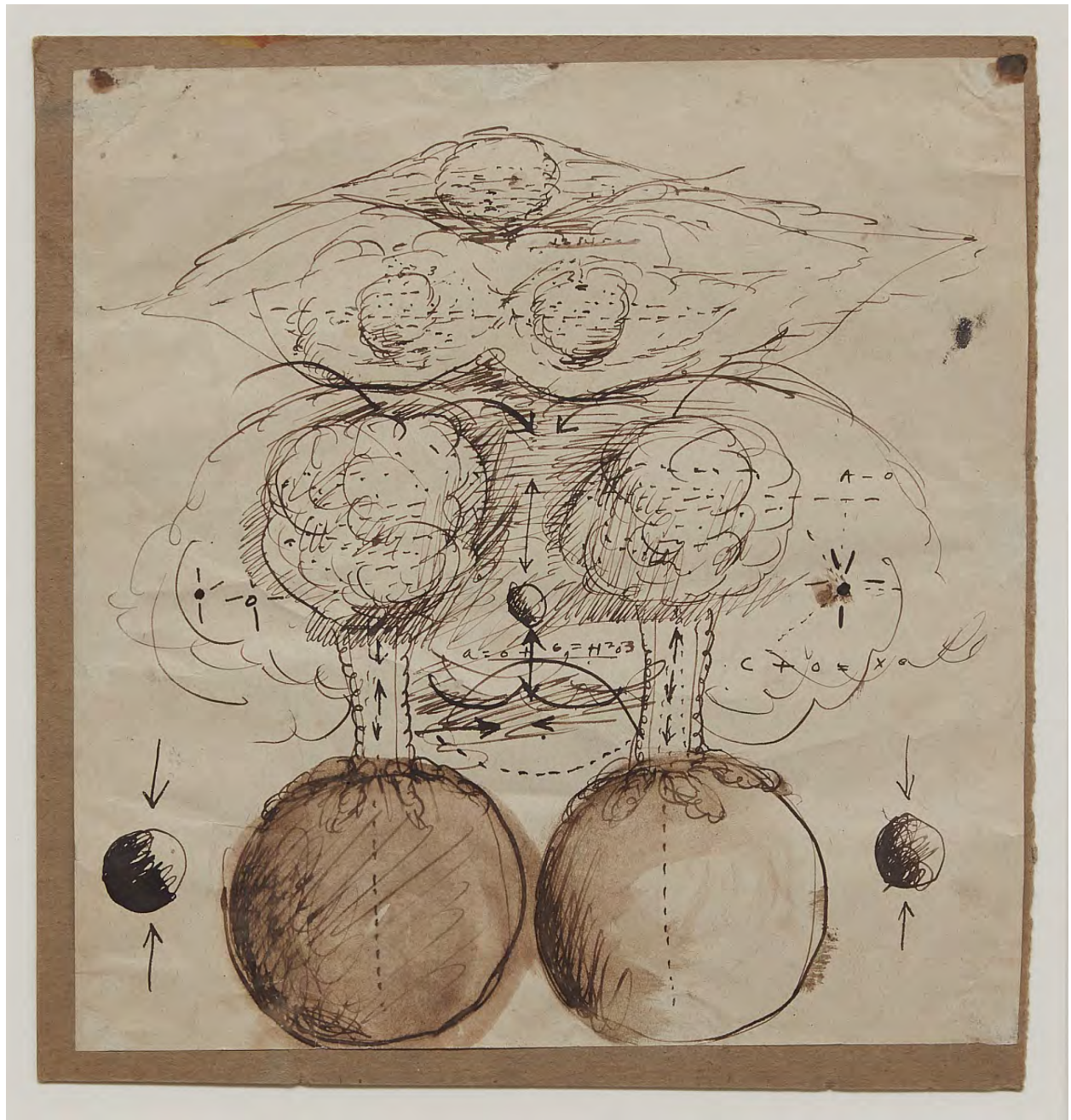
This exhibition celebrates Leaf's long history with the museum and her impact on the city of Chicago as well as the art world beyond. Alongside available works, the artist has selected several paintings and works on paper from the Smart Museum's collection— a number of which were gifted by the late art historian, critic, and educator Dennis Adrian—as well as the DePaul Art Museum's collection. Leaf's mark on the city of Chicago is unmistakable. Associated with the influential group known as the Monster Roster, she paved the way for artists to continue to experiment with figuration at a time when the art world in New York reveled in Abstract Expressionism and Minimalism.

The objects on view range from 1953 to 2018, featuring early works such as *Study for Arcade Women* that prefaces the iconic painting in the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago's collection, to recent renderings such as *Wake Up* that demonstrate Leaf's unflinching wit and shrewd perception of the balancing act of modern life.

– Jennifer Carty, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago

**The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago holds nineteen works by June Leaf in its permanent collection. A portion of proceeds from the sale of artworks made available by the artist for this Frieze presentation will be designated to benefit the museum's conservation fund.**

For inquiries: [reception@hyphenadvisory.com](mailto:reception@hyphenadvisory.com)



June Leaf  
*Twin Volcanoes*, 1953  
pen and ink on paper  
8 1/4h x 8w in  
JL111



June Leaf  
*Zephyrs*, 1956  
oil on canvas  
42h x 47w in  
JL127

Collection The Smart Museum; gift of Dennis Adrian in honor of the artist



June Leaf  
*Study for Arcade Women*, 1956  
acrylic on canvas  
20-1/2 x 25"  
JL021



June Leaf  
*Three Standing Models*, 1957  
oil on canvas  
20h x 20w in  
JL128

Collection The Smart Museum; gift of Dennis Adrian in honor of the artist



June Leaf

*Untitled (dead bird; For Dennis A.), 1957*

acrylic or gouache on paper

8 1/4 x 6 in

JL130

Collection The Smart Museum; gift of Dennis Adrian in honor of the artist



June Leaf  
*Untitled*, 1965  
acrylic on canvas  
30h x 40w in  
JL129

Collection The Smart Museum; gift of Joel Press



June Leaf  
*Computer Woman in Landscape*, 1975  
graphite pencil with incising, and watercolor on paper  
22-5/8 X 28-1/2"  
JL001





June Leaf

*Puppeteer with Tank*, 1975

Pen and ink, graphite, pencil, and opaque watercolor on paper

22-1/2 x 28-3/8"

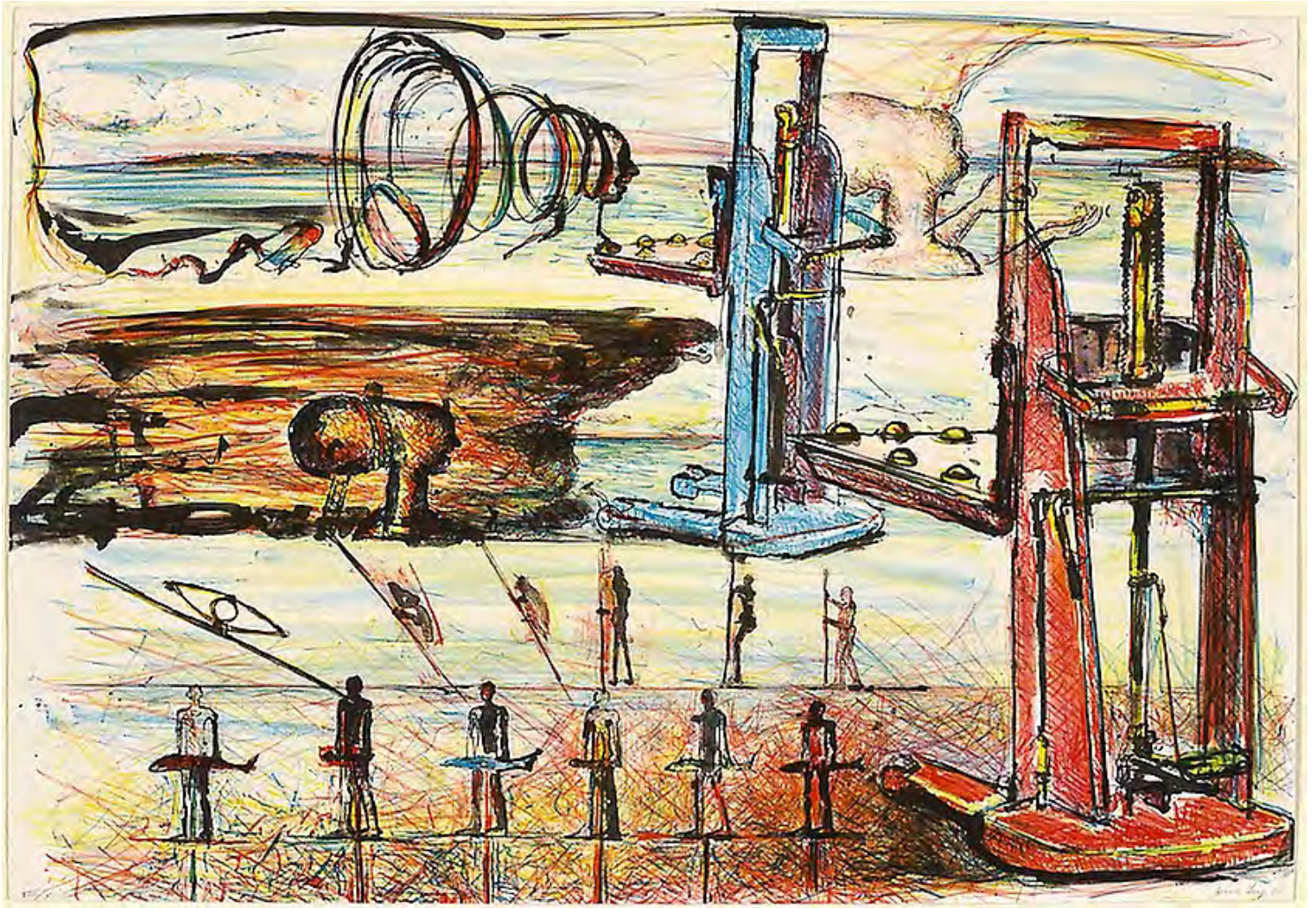
JL002



June Leaf  
*The Painters*, c.1975-80  
acrylic on canvas  
50 x 72"  
JL018



June Leaf  
*The Mooring*, 1979  
acrylic on canvas  
33 x 52"  
JL020



June Leaf

*Untitled (The Head in the Mine)*, 1980

multi-color lithograph on Arches Cover White wove paper

25 1/8h x 36 3/16w in

JL132

Editions in The Smart Museum and DePaul Art Museum



June Leaf  
*Pencil Bird*, 1985  
pastel, ink, and acrylic on paper  
29 x 49"  
JL012



June Leaf  
*Shadow of Hands*, 1999-2000  
acrylic on paper on canvas  
31 x 51"  
JL014



June Leaf  
*Man on a Hoop*, 2000  
ink on paper  
17 x 13-1/2"  
JL007  
Private collection



June Leaf  
*Movie Camera*, 2003  
wood, tin, egg beater  
17 3/4h x 18 1/2w x 12 1/4d in  
JL114





June Leaf  
*Scroll with Figures (Family on a Raft)*, 2008  
metal, wire, acrylic on fabric  
15 x 19 x 9"  
JL025



June Leaf  
*Wake Up*, 2015-2018  
acrylic on paper, tin, metal collage  
38h x 50w in  
JL121



June Leaf  
*Woman on a Barrel*, 2015-2016  
acrylic on canvas  
35 x 41"  
JL017

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## **About the artist**

June Leaf (b. 1929) studied at the Art Institute of Chicago (M.A. 1954), Roosevelt University (B.A. 1954), and the New Bauhaus Institute of Design (1947-48) and while her early work from this period is associated with the Monster Roster, a group of influential artists active in Chicago in the late 1940s which included Seymour Rosofsky, Nancy Spero, Leon Golub, Evelyn Statsinger, Arthur Lerner, and Cosmo Campoli, she has continually pioneered her own way for which she has received critical acclaim. Recognition came early to June Leaf, from her inclusion in The Art Institute of Chicago's Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art (1948, 1950-52) to being selected to participate in Exhibition Momentum, Leon Golub's revolutionary juried show (1948-1952). In 1958, June Leaf received a Fulbright Grant which allowed her to study in Paris. Upon her return, she relocated to New York City and shortly thereafter, the Allan Frumkin Gallery exhibited her work in both New York and Chicago.

June Leaf's extensive exhibition history includes The Whitney Museum of American Art's 1970 exhibition Human Concern, Personal Torment. In 1978, a year in which she embarked on the fabrication of a large-scale sculpture at the prestigious Lippincott Factory in Connecticut, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago gave Leaf her first retrospective. A copy of this vintage exhibition catalogue has been made fully accessible onsite at the Thomas J. Watson Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and remotely through Watsononline, as well as frieze.com. More recent retrospective and survey exhibitions of June Leaf's work include A Survey of Painting, Sculpture and Works on Paper, 1948-1991, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C and the Addison Gallery of American Art, and June Leaf, Museum Tinguely, Basel, Switzerland, 2004.

Drawings, paintings, sculpture, and prints by June Leaf have been collected by numerous museums worldwide including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Smart Museum of Art, Chicago; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.

The artist is the recipient of honorary degrees from DePaul University in Chicago and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Canada. In addition to her 1958 Fulbright Grant, she was awarded a Canada Council Grant (1983-85); a Distinguished Artist Award from the Canadian Council (1984); and a National Endowment for the Arts Grant (1989).

Since 1960, June Leaf has lived and worked in New York City. In 1970, Leaf and her late husband, the photographer and filmmaker Robert Frank (1924-2019) rebuilt a 19th century fisherman's hut in Mabou, Nova Scotia where Leaf still maintains a second studio and small forge.

## **The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago**

The Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago is a site for rigorous inquiry and exchange that encourages the examination of complex issues through the lens of art objects and artistic practice. Through strong community and scholarly partnerships, the Museum incorporates diverse ideas, identities, and experiences into its exhibitions and collections, academic initiatives, and public programming. The Smart first opened in 1974.

## **Hyphen**

Founded in 2014 by Andrea Glimcher, Hyphen is an independent artist management firm.