

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Women's Studio Workshop
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Women's Studio Workshop Celebrates 40th Anniversary, Honors Richard Frumess & Zarina Hashmi at Annual Gala

Women's Studio Workshop's 40th Anniversary Gala

Mohonk Mountain House Pavilion, 1000 Mountain Rest Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561
Saturday, September 20, 5-9pm
Admission: \$125.00 per ticket

Rosendale, New York – The Women's Studio Workshop is proud to announce its special 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner and Auction, to be held at the Mohonk Mountain House September 20, 2014.

In 1974, WSW was founded by four young women artists who envisioned a world where women's art was considered integral to mainstream culture. Forty years later, WSW's programming has expanded beyond a simple studio space to include paid internship and residency opportunities, an award winning art-in-education program, and intensive summer workshops. All four founders are still involved in the operations of the Workshop, which has grown to support the work of over 5000 artists internationally.

WSW's annual gala is a celebration of women artists and individuals whose contributions help improve the lives of artists in the local communities. This year's event honors two prominent members of the art world: Richard Frumess, founder R&F Handmade Paints in Kingston; and renowned paper and print artist and WSW alumna Zarina Hashmi.

Richard Frumess is the founder of R&F Handmade Paints, an artist-centered organization focused on producing high quality encaustic materials and on supporting artists both within our local community and internationally.

"We share a passion for serving artists," says Co-founder and Executive Director Ann Kalmbach. "Richard Frumess represents the best kind of art business leadership any nonprofit could look for. Though R&F is a business, his motivation is to help artists through a specific medium that he's deeply engaged with."

Frumess first started experimenting with encaustics in his own painting practice while living in New York City in the 1970s. His interest grew when he began working for Torch Art Supplies, at the time the only encaustics supplier in the world. There, he became committed to creating quality encaustic products and making the little-taught medium more accessible to artists.

Frumess founded R&F in 1988, and the organization has since grown from an art supply company to an important local fixture that supports a thriving artistic community by providing workshops and exhibition spaces to artists throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. R&F has a long-standing relationship with WSW, and the two organizations continue to hold collaborative workshops every summer. Today, Frumess is working to create an arts district in the city of Kingston, with the ultimate goal of connecting the various arts communities throughout the Hudson Valley.

Born in India just ten years before the partition of India and Pakistan, **Zarina** has created a home for herself within her work. Her prints and handmade paper explore personal history and draw on themes of

diaspora, displacement, and home. The geometric lines and shapes that dominate her compositions serve as minimalist representations of her life, family, and culture. "What am I if not my work?" she says.

Zarina has traveled the world and studied extensively, absorbing new techniques and experiences that would become the foundation for her work. In 1976 she moved to New York City, where she became a fixture in feminist art circles and continues to live and work. Zarina has been a friend and supporter of WSW since 1983, when she first visited the studio to teach paper casting techniques. She returned in 1991 as a NYSCA-funded Artist's Book Residency, producing two portfolios: *Ten Woodcuts, Based on Urdu Proverbs* and *The House Four Walls*. Her recent retrospective, *Zarina: Paper Like Skin*, traveled to the Guggenheim Museum in 2013. She is represented by Luhring Augustine Gallery in NYC.

"Zarina is totally fearless and tenacious in her life and art," says Digital Content and Communications Manager Jenn Bratovich, who interviewed Zarina in her Chelsea live/work loft for the WSW blog. "She represents exactly the kind of women artists WSW has worked so hard to support for the last 40 years. She is a pioneer, a citizen of the world whose work is strikingly thoughtful, powerful, and contemporary."

WSW's gala will be held on Saturday, September 20 at the Mohonk Mountain House Pavilion from 5-9pm. The event will kick off at 5pm with a silent auction, followed by a delicious Tuscan themed dinner. An exciting live auction lead by Judy Milne will close the evening. Tickets are \$125 each and can be purchased online or over the phone at 845-658-9133. Guests can reserve tables of 10.

This year's committee includes co-chairs Haynes Llewellyn and Rebekah Milne, as well as Ellen Alexander, Stephanie Earl, Christine Hein, Julian Lesser, Elenie Loizou, Laurel Sweeney, Gary Swenson, and Jeannine Tully.

Women's Studio Workshop (WSW) is a visual arts organization in Rosendale, New York. Since 1974, WSW has brought over 5,000 artists from across the globe to work in their printmaking, hand papermaking, letterpress printing, photography, book arts and ceramics studios. Over 6,000 Ulster County youth have participated in WSW's art-in-education program. WSW's artists' book grant program has published more than 200 artists' books, collected by special collections of major libraries and museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Tate Modern, and The Library of Congress, among others.

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