Portraits from the École des Beaux-Arts Paris  
April 10–June 28, 2015 

Main Gallery 
Opening Reception: Thursday, April 16, 6–8pm 

For further information and images, please contact  
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February 3, 2015 

New York – The Drawing Center will present Portraits from the École des Beaux-Arts Paris, an exhibition that explores four hundred years of portrait drawings, emphasizing work from live models. Each week, a different set of four portraits from different centuries and with different formal qualities will be hung “in dialogue” with each other in a specially-built room located in the center of The Drawing Center’s Main Gallery. Forty portraits have been chosen from the collection of Beaux-Arts de Paris based on diverse criteria such as the male and female gestures, caricature, frontal gaze, social class, and profession of the model. The room is inspired by the intimate gallery at the Galleria Doria Pamphilj in Rome where Velazquez’s portrait of Pope Innocent X (c.1649) hangs, which only accommodates a small number of visitors at a time and was designed to provide a space for close viewing and contemplation without crowds. The remaining thirty-six portraits in the exhibition will be hung on the gallery’s outside walls and will be visible to the visitor throughout the exhibition’s run. 

This unique exhibition will explore the notion of drawn portraiture and provide alternative readings of this important genre of art making within a contemporary context. The selection of works is extensive, ranging from never-before-exhibited drawings by seventeenth-century luminaries Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres and Charles Garnier to the work of modern and contemporary masters Henri Matisse and Georg Baselitz to portraits by recent graduates of the Beaux-Arts de Paris. Co-curated by Emmanuelle Brugerolles, Curator of the Drawings collection at the Beaux-Arts de Paris and Brett Littman, Executive Director of The Drawing Center.
ABOUT BEAUX-ARTS DE PARIS
The École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts located across the Seine from the Musée du Louvre in the heart of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, is heir to the Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture, founded in 1648 by Louis XIV. Its remarkable drawing collection is second in size only to that of Le Louvre and, thanks to numerous gifts and donations for teaching purposes, includes a number of truly exceptional pieces. Historic, long-preserved state art collections and contemporary artistic creation come together in this institution, whose mission is to educate and train students planning to devote themselves to high-level artistic creation. The collections remain a vital component of teaching and study at the École. For the students, who study, examine, draw from and photograph them, they are a continual source of questioning and reinterpretation. In 1987, the Beaux-Arts de Paris was given a tremendous collection from Mathias Polakovits, who was a Match journalist and lived in New York in the 1970s. Many drawings exhibited today in The Drawing Center came from Polakovits’ collection.

PUBLICATION
To accompany Portraits from the École des Beaux-Arts Paris The Drawing Center will produce an extensively illustrated, 150-page edition in the Drawing Papers series featuring an introduction by Brett Littman and Nicolas Bourriaud, Director of Beaux-Arts de Paris, and an essay by the exhibition co-curator Emmanuelle Brugerolles. The catalogue will also include a roundtable discussion between Littman and artists Alex Katz, Ellen Altfest, and Will Cotton about contemporary portraiture. The catalog will be sold through The Drawing Center’s bookstore, and website and be distributed by Distributed Art Publishers.

CREDITS
Lead support for Portraits from the École des Beaux-Arts Paris comes from Canson.

Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Robert Lehman Foundation, Ildeko and Gilbert Butler, Catherine and Arthur Williams, Diane Nixon, David Tobey, Elizabeth Eveillard, the Kress Family Foundation, and Jill Newhouse.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER
The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

LOCATION, HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY
35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets in SoHo, New York.
Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm. Tickets: $5 Adults, $3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: The Drawing Center
TWITTER: twitter.com/drawingcenter
TUMBLR: the-drawing-center.tumblr.com
INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/drawingcenter

AT THE DRAWING CENTER
Tomi Ungerer: All in One Through March 22, 2015
James Sheehan: Death of Malevich Through October 2015
Portraits from the École des Beaux-Arts Paris April 10–June 28, 2015
Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm April 10–June 28, 2015
Open Sessions 3 April 10–May 15, 2015
Abdelkader Benchamma: Representation of Dark Matter April 10–March 2016
Rachel Goodyear April 10–March 2016
İnci Eviner May 29–June 28, 2015

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Images Available for Reproduction

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