

The Drawing Center Receives First Place Award from the International Association of Art Critics/USA

Unica Zürn: Dark Spring named Best Show by a Non-Profit Gallery or Space

December 22, 2009 – The Drawing Center is pleased to announce that it has been awarded First Place honors in the category of "Best Show by a Non-Profit Gallery or Space" by the International Association of Art Critics/USA for the 2009 exhibition *Unica Zürn: Dark Spring*. On December 11, AICA/USA announced the winners of its 26th annual awards honoring exceptional and important work in the visual arts by artists, curators, gallerists, writers, scholars, and cultural institutions. Projects in a total of 13 categories were nominated and voted on by the association's 400 members. A complete list of first- and second-place award winners in all 13 categories will be available at www.aicausa.org. The awards ceremony will take place at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum on February 16, 2010.

On view in The Drawing Center's Main Gallery from April 17 – July 23, 2009, *Unica Zürn: Dark Spring* was the first major museum exhibition in North America devoted to the work of the German artist and author Unica Zürn (1916-1970). Foregrounding the role of drawing in Zürn's artistic career, the exhibition brought together for the first time 50 ink and watercolor works on paper spanning from the early 1950s until her death in 1970. The exhibition was curated by João Ribas, now Curator at the MIT List Visual Arts Center.

Brett Littman, Executive Director of The Drawing Center, says "We are thrilled to be recognized by AICA/USA for the second year in a row for the best show in a non-profit space for *Unica Zürn: Dark Spring*. This award reinforces the relevancy of our programming on a national level and underscores our long history of challenging and innovative exhibitions. Our deepest congratulations to our former curator, João Ribas, and our assistant curator, Joanna Kleinberg, for their sensitivity towards and deep understanding of Zürn's haunting and mesmerizing drawings."

Exhibition Curator João Ribas added, "I am truly honored to receive this award on behalf of The Drawing Center, and thank AICA/USA for their esteemed recognition of the importance of ideas of feminism and recovery. It is a humbling experience to be noted by an award known for such high standards of rigorous scholarship and risk-taking curatorial practice."

The Drawing Center received previous awards from AICA/USA in 2009 for *Frederick Kiesler: Co-Realities*, in 2006 for *3 x Abstraction: New Methods of Drawing by Emma Kunz, Hilma af Klimt, and Agnes Martin*, and in 2001 for *The Prinzborn Collection: Traces upon the Wunderblock*.

Unica Zürn: Dark Spring was made possible in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

ABOUT AICA

AICA/USA is the United States section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA), founded in 1948/1949 in Paris and originally affiliated with UNESCO as an NGO, or non-governmental organization. Currently there are 64 member nations representing more than 4,000 art critics worldwide. AICA/USA, headquartered in New York, is the largest national section, with a membership of over 400 distinguished critics and scholars nationwide.

AICA/USA promotes critical discourse and is dedicated to expanding awareness of the values of art criticism as a discipline and acting in defense of the physical and moral value of art. It is the only organization to award excellence in museum and gallery exhibitions and does so to indicate the standards by which its members judge what they see.

ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only museum in the United States 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.

HOURS & LOCATION

The Drawing Center, located at 35 Wooster Street between Broome and Grand Streets, is open Wednesday, 12 to 6 pm, Thursday, 12 to 8pm, and Friday-Sunday, 12 to 6 pm (closed Mondays and Tuesdays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.