

PRESS RELEASE

October 4–November 16, 2025

JACK CEGLIC | MARK HEMING

Casting Call

The Drawing Room is pleased to present a two-person exhibition that spotlights portraits by American artists Mark Heming (b. 1907– d. 1999) and Jack Ceglic (b. 1935). The installation juxtaposes paintings and drawings created by two New Yorkers who embraced the diverse cross-section of their communities to explore the pathos of the human condition.



Mark Heming, *Three Sailors*, 1952

While separated by a generation and unique circumstances, Heming and Ceglic shared a sensitivity to the profound expressive possibilities of portraying the human figure. By pairing their works, *Casting Call* highlights the vitality and psychological undertones each artist brings to portraiture, offering a compelling dialogue across time, culture and techniques.



Jack Ceglic, *Lexi*, 2022



Mark Heming
Untitled (sailor) c. 1952

Internationally acclaimed figurative painter and sculptor, Eric Fischl has described Mark Heming as “an artist who was very able to communicate very authentic emotion, [with] a very deft expressionistic hand.” Fischl has also admired how Heming’s portraits navigate a “tightrope walk between character and caricature that is compelling and requires a high degree of difficulty to execute.”

Mark Heming was born on Manhattan’s Upper East Side to Morris Heimerdinger and Sarah Liebmann, whose family owned the historic Brooklyn brewery that produced Rheingold beer. Heming began painting as a young adult, without formal art training. His lifelong studio practice was propelled by his impressions of the multiplicity of people he observed in public—on city sidewalks, trolleys, and restaurants in New York, and on occasional travels in Europe. The visceral paintings and drawings that constitute his mature work reflect his empathic response to individuals who remained anonymous. Though reluctant to exhibit his work during his lifetime, Heming maintained an active studio after moving to Sag Harbor in the 1950s and continued to develop new bodies of work until his death at 92.

Jack Ceglic was raised in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn, where his mother owned a small grocery store. After training in art and illustration at Parsons, he was commissioned by Bonwit Teller to create paintings for the department store’s windows. Provided with art supplies, introductions to actors and access to fashion design ateliers, he flourished as a young artist, making large-scale works that evoked recognizable personae and fashion of the day. This exposure led to early exhibitions in the 1960s, and the launch of a six-decade career in which the resonance of his portraits has been highly regarded.

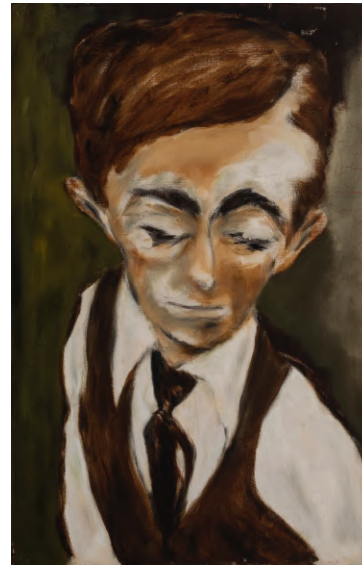
(over)

In conversation with Jack Ceglic, the actor and director Joe Mantello, remarked, "When I look at the portraits, I would be hard pressed to know which are the people you have a long-standing relationship with, and which are the people who live in town that you asked to pose that day." Ceglic answered, "I think that's a compliment because then, the craft is right."

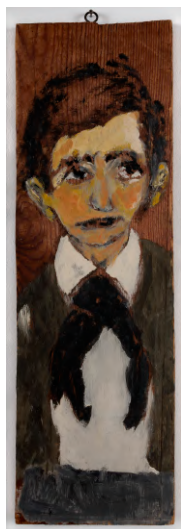
In contrast to Heming's representation of faces he encountered in public and re-imagined in solitude, Ceglic's portraits originate in the studio with modeling sessions. For decades he maintained a studio in SoHo near Dean & DeLuca, the celebrated store he co-founded in 1977. His subjects have included friends and relatives, artists, employees, as well as people he first met on the streets of Cuba and downtown Manhattan. Ceglic now divides his time between New York City and East Hampton, where he built a studio in 2012.



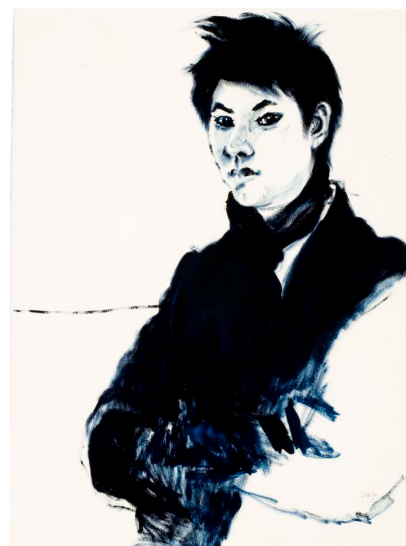
Jack Ceglic, *Leon*, 2021



Mark Heming, *Man Brown Vest*, 1956



Mark Heming, *Untitled (344)*, 1953



Jack Ceglic, *Michael*, 2010

For further information and reproduction quality images
contact Claudine Chartouni at 631 324.5016 or info@drawingroom-gallery.com

www.drawingroom-gallery.com