

## **A Statement of Action | Black Lives Matter**

Tragic events over the past several weeks have brought into sharp focus the undeniable systemic racism and racial injustice that exist in places of work, our communities, and the country at large. We have used the ensuing weeks to reflect and undertake a process of institutional self-scrutiny, asking how we can better support underrepresented people and work to change the status quo.

Shortly after the murder of George Floyd, the gallery released a statement, which read in part: "Sean Kelly Gallery stands in solidarity with the Black community and all people in the fight against racism, white supremacy and systemic oppression. We condemn police brutality, the killing of George Floyd and other people of color. We are committed to providing a platform for art that celebrates diversity and to creating an environment committed to anti-racism, equality and justice for all."

Sean Kelly Gallery has always represented a diverse group of artists from around the world and has a historically strong record of supporting women, artists of color and artists of disparate ethnic backgrounds. We provide equitable opportunities for employment and have been proactive in making the gallery available as a free educational resource, welcoming school and educational groups of all ages. Sean Kelly is a Trustee of PEN America, an organization dedicated to freedom of speech and supporting writers and journalists worldwide. We actively make our space available in support of organizations that advocate racial equity, social justice, AIDS research, and other causes to which we are committed.

The time for radical social change is now. Toward this end, we are taking actionable steps to foster increased communication within our organization, with our artists, and diverse communities, to proactively strengthen our commitment to education and be of increased service as a community resource. We have created a direct email address: [community@skny.com](mailto:community@skny.com) and upon reopening we encourage educational and community groups to contact us regarding tours and programs.

We are undertaking conversations with partners regarding the initiation of a mentorship program aimed at creating a more equitable environment for youth interested in the arts. The focus of this program will be on encouraging young people, particularly those from underrepresented communities, to consider opportunities and potential careers in the art world.

Participation in November's Presidential election is critical. We encourage everyone to support candidates who express equitable positions that align with their values. We need to vote our conscience and support the advancement of education, healthcare, economic reform, police reform, and social and racial equality. We live in a democracy; the ballot box is the most important place for us to express our opinions and ignite change locally and nationally.

The gallery remains committed to progressive action and challenging complacency, understanding that we can do more. We look forward to working together to make society at large an equitable and accountable place for everybody. We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, and pledge to stay committed to fight racial injustice. Without intentional and deliberate action, the fight against systemic racism will not succeed.

# SEANKELLY

Please join us in support of organizations working towards sustainable solutions that affirm the sanctity, security, and prosperity of Black lives.

Black Lives Matter <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

Know Your Rights Camp <https://www.knowyourrightscamp.com/legal>

Obama Foundation <https://www.obama.org/anguish-and-action/>

Black Art Futures Fund <https://www.blackartfutures.org/>

Arts Administrators of Color <https://aacnetwork.org/>

PEN America <https://pen.org/>