

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Paint Until Dawn Online Launch

Sunshine Coast, BC— January 28, 2022. How does an artist survive without compromising the pursuit of excellence? *Paint Until Dawn* is about art itself through the eyes of artists and through the lens of James Gahagan’s life and work. Produced and directed by artist Eli Ives, this feature-length documentary premiered online internationally at FAFF2020 in Venice, California and will be released on **February 3** for streaming rentals on <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/paintuntildawn>. Institutional and educational licenses will be available upon request.

Paint Until Dawn is the first film of *Colour Creates Light: A Diaspora in Four Films*, exploring the legacy of the master teacher Hans Hofmann. Producer/director Ives says, “The articulate legacy of the Hofmann atelier offers a conduit into the heart of the visual creative process—and our individual and collective survival depend on creative thought.”

“Seeing is to painting what listening is to politics,” Ives relates, “Survival as an artist demands both: think outside the box.” A painter’s painter whose color work rivals that of his mentor Hans Hofmann, Gahagan was a widely known secret of the art world. He painted until dawn to reinvent the visual language with every work.

The film opens in 1999 with his last public appearance in New York, two months before dying swiftly of a stroke. Son of a labor leader, Gahagan became an activist in the arts, inspiring political structures to benefit others: a cooperative gallery, teachers unions, art schools, and an association of artists who took on the Mayor of New York City in 1961 to legalize loft dwelling.

A familiar figure of the 1950s New York Tenth Street scene, Gahagan had been one of the few able to explain Hans Hofmann’s painting critiques. Annual solo exhibitions, reviewed in *The New York Times* and *Art News*, augmented his teaching engagements at Columbia University Graduate School, Goddard, Pratt Institute, and Vermont Studio Center. Yet the challenge to sustain a creative life amid rising rents and dirty politics convinced him to embrace alternatives.

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Link to media kit: <https://www.paintuntildawn.com/media.html>