

PRATT INSTITUTE  
COMMENCEMENT 2026

MAY 19 AT 10 AM  
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL  
NEW YORK CITY

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SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
SCHOOL OF ART  
SCHOOL OF DESIGN  
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION  
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Pratt**

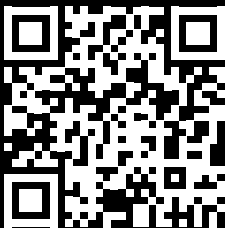
# Welcome to Pratt's 137<sup>th</sup> Commencement, and congratulations to the class of 2026!

We celebrate this year's graduates—innovators and future leaders ready to build a better world and a more sustainable future. Pratt supports these efforts at every level, and with our sustainability commitment in mind, we have limited the number of pages in this printed program. While the program in your hands might be smaller than before, its content has expanded and moved online.

We encourage you to **scan the QR code** below to access this unique online content and extend your Commencement experience. At this link you will find the complete list of graduates and can read more about the participants in our ceremony. Please explore the link now and revisit it after the ceremony to:

- Access the full list of the class of 2026
- Read more about our student speakers and performers
- Learn about the design for the Distinguished Teacher's medal
- Enjoy advice and memories from the class of 2026

Please visit [\*\*pratt.edu/classof2026\*\*](https://pratt.edu/classof2026) or scan the QR code.



# CEREMONY SCHEDULE

## FACULTY PROCESSIONAL

*Pomp and Circumstance*

Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1954)

Performed by Juilliard Jazz Ensemble

## PRESENTATION OF THE MACE

Frank Franca

Distinguished Teacher (2025–26)

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Heather Lewis

Co-President, Academic Senate

## THE ALMA MATER

Megan Chew

Bachelor of Architecture

Kelly-Ann Tan

Bachelor of Architecture

## OPENING DECLARATIONS

Frances Bronet

President, Pratt Institute

## THE PRATT LEGACY

Gary Hattem

Chair, Board of Trustees

## FACULTY HONORS

Karen L. Dunn

Adjunct Associate Professor

Graduate Communications Design

## STUDENT SPEAKERS

Anish Lahiri

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Communications Design

Aliman Temirbek

Master of Science,

Urban Placemaking and Management

## CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Ted Shaine

Doctor of Fine Arts

Introduced by Anne N. Edwards

Presented by Dean Anita Cooney

Mariët Westermann

Doctor of Humane Letters

Introduced by Gary Hattem

Presented by Dean Jorge Oliver

David Remnick

Doctor of Letters

Introduced by Dr. Joan Fallon

Presented by Dean Peter West

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

David Remnick

## 2026 DEGREE CANDIDATES\*

Frances Bronet

President, Pratt Institute

### *School of Architecture*

Dean Quilian Riano

### *School of Art*

Dean Jorge Oliver

### *School of Design*

Dean Anita Cooney

### *School of Information*

Dean Anthony Cocciolo

### *School of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

Dean Peter West

## PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Frances Bronet

President, Pratt Institute

## CLOSING DECLARATION

Zach Slanger

Co-President, Academic Senate

## FACULTY RECESSIONAL

*Prince of Denmark's March*

Jeremiah Clarke (c. 1673–1707)

Performed by Juilliard Jazz Ensemble



@PrattInstitute

#PrattGrad26



Open captioning is available on the ceremony livestream at [pratt.edu](https://pratt.edu).

\*Featuring live name readers



Photo credit: Brigitte Lacombe

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

### DAVID REMNICK *Doctor of Letters*

David Remnick has been the editor of *The New Yorker* since 1998 and a staff writer since 1992. He has written hundreds of pieces for the magazine, including reporting from Russia, the Middle East, and Europe and profiling Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, Katharine Graham, Mike Tyson, Bruce Springsteen, Ralph Ellison, Philip Roth, Benjamin Netanyahu, Leonard Cohen, and Mavis Staples. He also serves as the host of the magazine's national radio program and podcast, *The New Yorker Radio Hour*.

Remnick began his reporting career in 1982 as a staff writer at *The Washington Post*, where he covered stories for the Metro, Sports, and Style sections. In 1988, he started a four-year assignment as a *Washington Post* Moscow correspondent, an experience that formed the basis of his 1993 book, *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire*. In 1994, *Lenin's Tomb* received both the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction and a George Polk Award for excellence in journalism.

Under Remnick's leadership, *The New Yorker* has become the country's most honored magazine. It has won more than 50 National Magazine Awards during his tenure, including multiple citations for general excellence. In 2016, *The New Yorker* became the first magazine to receive a Pulitzer Prize for its writing and now has won 11 Pulitzers, including the gold medal for public service. Remnick was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2016.

Remnick has written seven books: *Lenin's Tomb*, *Resurrection: The Struggle for a New Russia*, *King of the World* (a biography of Muhammad Ali), and *The Bridge* (a biography of Barack Obama), along with *The Devil Problem*, *Reporting*, and *Holding the Note*, which are collections of some of his pieces from the magazine. He has also edited or co-edited many anthologies of *New Yorker* articles, including *The Matter of Black Lives*, *The Fragile Earth*, *Life Stories*, *Wonderful Town*, *The New Gilded Age*, *Fierce Pajamas*, *Disquiet, Please!*, and *Secret Ingredients*.

Remnick has taught at Princeton University, where he received his BA in 1981, and at Columbia University. He lives in New York with his wife, Esther Fein. They have three children, Alex, Noah, and Natasha.

# HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

## MARIËT WESTERMANN *Doctor of Humane Letters*

Dr. Mariët Westermann is the director and CEO of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, directing its flagship museum in New York, overseeing the foundation and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, and providing collaborative leadership at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the future Guggenheim Abu Dhabi.

Westermann most recently led NYU Abu Dhabi, a degree-granting campus of NYU, as vice chancellor, having been the institution's founding provost from 2007 to 2010. She has also served as executive vice president of the Mellon Foundation, director of NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, associate director at the Clark Art Institute, and a faculty member at Rutgers University.

She earned a BA at Williams College and an MA and PhD at the Institute of Fine Arts. Westermann publishes widely on Netherlandish painting, the anthropology of art, museums, and higher education. She serves on the boards of ALIPH, the Rijksmuseum, and the American Academy in Rome and chairs the Scholar Rescue Fund of the Institute of International Education.



Photo courtesy of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, Photo by David Heald

# HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

TED SHAINE

*Doctor of Fine Arts*

Ted Shaine was born in 1947 and grew up in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn. He attended Abraham Lincoln High School, graduating in 1964, and was fortunate to study under Leon Friend, chairman of the art department at the school. Friend was a major influence in Shaine's early career and encouraged him to attend Saturday Art classes at Pratt Institute during his senior year of high school. Thanks to Friend's mentoring, Shaine was awarded a scholarship to Pratt upon his high school graduation.

During his senior year at Pratt, Shaine was part of a team that designed the 1968 yearbook, an experience that was invaluable. After graduating from the Institute with a BFA, he immediately went to work at one of the most prestigious advertising agencies at the time, Doyle Dane Bernbach (DDB). There, he had the opportunity to work as an assistant to Senior Art Director Bob Gage and contributed to campaigns for major brands such as Volkswagen and El Al Airlines during the early part of his career.

Shaine's most productive years in advertising were spent at DDB and another highly respected creative agency, BBDO. During those years, he also lectured on occasion at Pratt and taught courses at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

He was nominated for an Emmy Award for a commercial he created for FedEx and had the privilege of working for many other iconic brands, including Club Med, Schweppes, Pizza Hut, Pepsi, and Volkswagen. During this time, he was also fortunate to collaborate with remarkable global figures such as Muhammad Ali, Mikhail Gorbachev, and John Cleese. His graphic work is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City.

Today, Shaine's creative work is focused on print-making, and he has received several awards from international competitions. He now resides in Florida with Pat, his wife of 40 years.



Courtesy of Pratt Institute

## DISTINGUISHED TEACHER 2026–27

KAREN L. DUNN

*Adjunct Associate Professor  
Graduate Communications Design*

Karen L. Dunn is a filmmaker, activist, and educator whose practice moves between video, print culture, and sustainability advocacy. She holds an MFA in video/intermedia arts from the University of North Carolina, an MA in integrated media and performance from the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and a BA in motion picture studies from UCLA.

She is cofounder of No Kill: Project Planet, a nonprofit dedicated to sustainable fashion and anti-consumption advocacy. Through its publication *No Kill Magazine*, street campaigns, zines, and public interventions, the organization challenges dominant narratives around consumption and luxury and is a member of the UN Fashion and Lifestyle Network.

Her most recent film, *The Elephant (in My Room)*, follows Barbara Greene Mann, a painter who emerged from Detroit's Cass Corridor in the 1980s, disappeared from the art world, and was rediscovered three decades later, a consequential figure in Toronto's (dis)ability art scene. Premiering at the Detroit Institute of Arts in October 2025, the film will broadcast on PBS in August 2026. *Strange Beauty* (Wayne State University Press, 2025), co-edited with Caroline Maun and designer Lorraine Wild, is its companion: an illustrated retrospective gathering Mann's art alongside essays by those who knew her work and her world. Together they make the case that even in the bleakest moments, creativity can change the story.

Since 2015, Dunn has been an adjunct associate professor in the Graduate Communications Design program at Pratt Institute, where she teaches thesis research, design writing, sustainability, and technology courses and serves as a thesis research affinity group leader.



Courtesy of Katya Moorman

# STUDENT SPEAKERS

UNDERGRADUATE: ANISH LAHIRI  
*Bachelor of Fine Arts, Communications Design*

Anish Lahiri is graduating from Pratt Institute with a degree in Graphic Design and minors in UX/UI and Literature and Writing. Having grown up across the globe, his work is shaped by an interest in community, culture, storytelling, and history. During his time at Pratt, he developed as both a thinker and maker, exploring how design can connect people through different forms of message-making. Lahiri served as co-president of the student design club ComD Agency and as a Figma campus leader, fostering spaces for students to learn, connect, and explore different areas of design. After graduation, he looks forward to continuing his work and using design as a way to bring people and society together.



GRADUATE: ALIMAN TEMIRBEK  
*Master of Science, Urban Placemaking and Management*

Aliman Temirbek, a graduating master's student in Pratt Institute's Urban Placemaking and Management program, is committed to social responsibility, community engagement, and equitable urban development. Born and raised in Kyrgyzstan, Temirbek proudly represents the Kyrgyz community in New York and is the first graduate from her country in Pratt's history. As a mother of two, she brings a unique perspective on resilience, care, and intergenerational responsibility to her academic and professional pursuits.

At Pratt, Temirbek has actively bridged scholarship and practice through a fellowship at the Brooklyn Borough President's Office, internship at the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, and leadership in CREW NY's Young Professionals program for women in commercial real estate. Her research and practice focus on designing inclusive public spaces, supporting underrepresented immigrant communities, and leveraging urban design as a tool for social equity. Temirbek's work embodies collaboration, empathy, and civic responsibility, reflecting her belief that education is both a personal journey and a public trust.



## STUDENT PERFORMERS

### STUDENT PERFORMER: KELLY-ANN TAN

#### *Bachelor of Architecture*

Making music with friends is one of Kelly-Ann Tan's favorite pastimes. Tan has eight years of choral experience and is self-taught in the acoustic guitar, playing regularly in church settings back home in Singapore.

She will be graduating from Pratt with a bachelors of architecture and a minor in social justice/social practice. In about a week, Tan will return to Singapore to work at the government's Building and Construction Authority.

She is thankful beyond words for every peer and leader she has met at Pratt and for all the mentorship and opportunities she has received. She is grateful for God, family, and friends—her source of strength, joy, and perspective throughout this season of her life.



### STUDENT PERFORMER: MEGAN CHEW

#### *Bachelor of Architecture*

Megan Chew picked up the flute after her great-grandmother gifted her one on her seventh birthday. At nine, she was recruited into her school choir, where she trained in voice and performed in the Singapore Youth Festival. She would like to thank her family, especially her mom and dad, for always supporting her side hobbies and this crazy endeavor to move halfway across the world and embark on a long college journey to finally earn a bachelors of architecture with a minor in literature and writing. She's also really grateful for her found family, her friends, and mentors at Pratt and all across New York, who stood by her when things got tough (as they often did) and gifted her many moments of laughter and joy.



# THE INSTITUTE CONVOCATION

## THE ALMA MATER

Towering far above her neighbors  
Shop and mart and hall,  
Stands the home of student-labors,  
Noblest of them all!  
At each meeting, give her greeting,  
Raise the proud salute!  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Hail, Pratt Institute!  
Round the world the chain extending  
Each to other binds,  
All her honored name defending,  
Hearts and hands and minds.  
At our meeting, give her greeting,  
Raise the proud salute!  
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
Hail, Pratt Institute!

## LIVING LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Pratt Institute is situated on Lenapehoking, the traditional and unceded homeland of the Lenape people, past, present, and future. The Lenape people have been living on this land long before the United States was established, and their wisdom is essential to our time.

We acknowledge that the genocide, theft of land and resources, forced migration, and systematic cultural oppression of Indigenous Peoples and Nations have a long-lasting impact on the living conditions, mental health, and cultural lineage of Indigenous Peoples and Nations. We acknowledge that the colonizers and their descendants have benefited economically and socially from the oppression of Indigenous Peoples and Nations, and we commit to repairing inequity and rebalancing the power distribution.

As learners and educators, we recognize Indigenous Peoples and Nations' longtime traditions of making art and storytelling. We acknowledge the significance of their creativity and how often they are unrecognized as artists, designers, and writers, while their culture is appropriated and taken by other artists, designers, and writers.

Only when we are informed of our past can we collectively envision our future. We begin by properly naming the land we reside on and recognizing ourselves as (in) voluntary immigrants to this land. We will actively work to challenge the legacy of settler colonialism, undo its extractive and exploitative land practices, and express gratitude to the stewards of the land and water who came before us, and honor their descendants who are here today.

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The Alma Mater lyrics were written by Mary Wright Plummer (1856–1916), one of Pratt Institute's early library directors (1890–1911), a major figure in American librarianship. The alma mater is set to the tune of *Annie Lisle*, a popular 1857 ballad by H.S. Thompson (active 1849–1885) about a heroine dying of tuberculosis. First used by Cornell University in 1870 for their alma mater, *Far Above Cayuga's Waters*, the tune has since been

adopted by countless academic institutions as their respective alma mater throughout the country.

The Pratt mace was designed by the late Paul Fjelde, emeritus professor of art and distinguished medalist. The mace was presented to the Institute by the class of 1956.



EMENT 2026

Design: pratt.edu/pcomm

6 COMMENC

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Let the work done here be earnest and good...  
Work for the genuine and the true  
will sweeten and give courage to life.

CHARLES PRATT

*excerpt from Founder's Day speech, October 2, 1888*

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