

RONCHINI

Paul Jenkins: Works on Canvas from the Nineties and Noughties

23 November - 23 December 2022

Preview: Tuesday 22 November, 6-8pm



Paul Jenkins, *Phenomena Initiation*, 2007, acrylic on canvas, 104 1/8 x 74 3/4 in ©Estate of Paul Jenkins

Ronchini, in conjunction with the Estate of the artist, is pleased to present our second solo exhibition of paintings by the American Abstract Expressionist painter Paul Jenkins (1923–2012). Known for his method of pouring paint and the luminous colour of his abstractions, Paul Jenkins embodies many of the strengths of the New York School (1) and was a contemporary of Pollock, Rothko and Motherwell.

Featuring large scale works from the nineties and noughties, this exhibition highlights the varied pallet and the multiformity of the medium of acrylic paint that Jenkins embraced since the 1960s. In this pivotal transition to acrylic, an ivory knife — a gift to the artist in 1958 — became an essential tool in guiding the flow of poured paint in his works. Working in acrylic enabled Jenkins to fully explore the increased translucency alongside opacity that subsequently defined his impressive career. Influenced by Goethe's colour theories, in 1960 Jenkins also began to title his paintings *Phenomena* followed by a key phrase or word.

Ranging from the bold, tactile canvases of the 1990's with their thick impasto strokes and angular forms to the more ephemeral compositions of the 2000's, this exhibition presents a study in the artist's continual experimentation with colour, light, form and expression. The horizontal layers of colour in *Phenomena: Ancestral Striations*, 1995, seems to pulsate under pressure not unlike the dictionary's definition of "striations" as linear forms or marks generated from fault movement. With a similar dynamism, *Phenomena: Invocation at the Anvil*, 1998, is equally potent with clearly defined forms painted with thick impasto that seem to burst with incendiary heat and flames from the underlying veils of colour. In contrast, *Phenomena: Initiation*, 2007, is comprised of jewel-tone vertical veils, both transparent and opaque, which overlap and meld together to fill the entire canvas with luscious colour.

This exhibition follows the artist's impressive retrospective at the Tampa Museum of Art, and offers a chance to view a concise, curated selection of some of the artist's later works which bring together the most renowned features of his profound oeuvre.

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The artist in his studio. Photograph Shunk-Kender 1962.

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Gift of the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation in Memory of Harry Shunk and Janos Kender.

About the artist

Born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1923, Paul Jenkins settled in New York in 1948, studying on the GI Bill for four years with Yasuo Kuniyoshi at the Art Students League. His first solo exhibitions were at Studio Paul Facchetti in Paris in 1954; in 1955 at the Zoe Dusanne Gallery, Seattle; in 1956 at the Martha Jackson Gallery, in New York and, in 1960 at Arthur Tooth & Sons, London. Invited by Jiro Yoshihara in 1958, Jenkins worked with the Gutai in Osaka in 1964, exchanging works with several artists. Those paintings formed the basis of the exhibition "*Under Each Other's Spell: Gutai and New York*", first shown at the Pollock-Krasner House & Study Center in East Hampton in 2009. The title of this exhibition comes from a quote by Jenkins to exhibition curator and art historian Ming Tiampo, describing his time working with Gutai artists in Osaka.

Selected recent exhibitions include: *Artistic License: Six Takes on the Guggenheim Collection*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2019); *Painting for Performance*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio (2019); *Echoing Forms: American Abstraction from the Permanent Collection and Abstract Expressionism: A Social Revolution*, Tampa Museum of Art (2019); *By Any Means: Contemporary Drawings from the Morgan*, Morgan Library & Museum, New York (2019); *Lost, Loose and Loved, Foreign Artists in Paris 1944-1968*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte, Reina Sofía, Madrid (2018); *Intuition*, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice (2017); *Gravity's Edge*, The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (2014); *Rothko to Richter: Mark Making in Abstract Painting from the Collection of Preston H. Haskell*, Princeton University Art Museum (2014).

Selected recent solo exhibitions include: *Paul Jenkins: From America's Heartland to an International Journey*, Tampa Museum of Art (2022); *Paul Jenkins*, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, UK (2016); *Chapel of Meditation*, UB Anderson Gallery, State University of New York at Buffalo (2016); *Paul Jenkins A Tribute: Paintings 2004-2010*, The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown (2015).

Permanent museum collections include: In New York: the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum; the Fogg Museum at Harvard University, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Art; in Washington, D.C.: the National Gallery, the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, the Smithsonian American Art Museum; the Iris & B. Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University; UB Anderson Gallery, State University of New York at Buffalo; in the UK: Tate Modern, the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; Ulster Museum, National Museum Northern Ireland, National Museum Wales; Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée Picasso, the Maeght Foundation, the Stedelijk Museum, the National Museum of Art, Osaka, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, the National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo, amongst many others.

Retrospectives include: Tampa Museum of Art (2022), Tampa, Florida; the Musée Picasso, Antibes (1987); Houston Museum of Fine Arts and San Francisco Museum of Art (1971-1972); and Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hanover (1964), amongst others.

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- 1) Jonathan Goodman. *Thresholds of Color*. Robert Miller Gallery, New York, 2014.

Exhibition: Paul Jenkins: Works on Canvas from the Nineties and Noughties

Dates: 23 November – 23 December 2022

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm, Saturday by appointment

Location: 22 Dering Street, London, W1S 1AN

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