

PAUL JENKINS

on canvas and paper
1989-2009

4 June to 29 August 2014



The Redfern Gallery is pleased to announce our forthcoming exhibition of paintings and works on paper by internationally acclaimed American abstract expressionist, Paul Jenkins (1923-2012).

This exhibition will focus on two decades of Jenkins' life, a time of intense productivity and reflection, including seminal works such as the large-scale canvases *Phenomena Gemini Encounter East 2001* (pictured above) and *Phenomena Initiation 2007*. It is the first major retrospective to explore this period and includes rarely seen collages, a little known aspect of the artist's oeuvre that has evolved since the early 50s, together with related watercolours and ink drawings. All of the works shown have never been exhibited in the UK, and many have never been seen outside of the artist's studio including the mysterious black and red triptych *Oracle*, *Phenomena Compass Reckoning*, *Phenomena Magnetic Meridian*, the collage relief *Phenomena Storm Door*, and others.

In the 1950s, inspired by the 'cataclysmic challenge of Pollock and the total metaphysical consumption of Mark Tobey,' Jenkins developed a method of pouring paint onto canvas to achieve a dense viscosity of impacted colour, after studying for four years under Yasuo Kuniyoshi at the Art Students League. In the early 50s, Jenkins came to know Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Robert Motherwell, who were among his friends.

Jenkins' early abstractions gained him prominence in New York and Europe; his first one man exhibition took place at Studio Paul Facchetti in Paris in 1954, followed two years later by his first solo show in New York with the Martha Jackson Gallery. International exhibitions have continued since the 1950s, with major retrospectives at the Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hanover; the Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; San Francisco Museum of Art; Palm Springs Desert Museum; and, the Musée Picasso in Antibes.

His paintings have been acquired by museums and private collections worldwide, most notably the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC; Tate, London; the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff; the Ulster Museum, National Museums of Northern Ireland, Belfast; the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the Museum of Western Art, Tokyo; and, the National Museum of Art, Osaka. Paintings and watercolours by the artist are currently on view at the Hirshhorn Museum in the exhibition *Gravity's Edge*, until 15 June 2014.

In 1960, he began to work in acrylic, fully exploring the potential for increased translucency alongside opacity possible with this medium. The paintings have a natural feeling to them, with rarely a trace of the artist's hand. Influenced by Goethe's colour theories, he began to title his paintings *Phenomena* followed by a key phrase or word.

The paintings and works on paper brought together for the first time in this exhibition provide a more comprehensive view of this artist's range in various media, reflecting his extraordinary achievements in colour, movement and collage. A fully illustrated catalogue is available with texts by Irving Sandler and Jean-Louis Prat.

For further images and information, please contact the Redfern Gallery: by phone, +44 (0) 20 7734 1732; by email, art@redfern-gallery.com, or visit our website: www.redfern-gallery.com.

**The
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