

ROBERT GREEN
FINE ARTS

154 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley, Ca 94941
Phone: 415 381 8776 • www.rgfinearts.com

PAUL JENKINS — SIGHTLINES IN WATERCOLOR
Exhibition Dates: February 4-April 13, 2008

Crucial to investing his art with the sense of being a world and not a thing is the relentless, persistent quality of fluidity.... It is not surprising that the painting which dramatically changed his art in 1951 was a watercolor and ink titled "Sea Escape."

Albert E. Elsen in Paul Jenkins, a monograph published by Harry N. Abrams, NY 1973

Robert Green is presenting a select group of watercolors by noted Abstract Expressionist Paul Jenkins (b. 1923), with works spanning from 1972 to 1996. Of particular interest in the current exhibition are two large-scale works mounted on shoji screen that have not been shown for three decades. *Phenomena Sufi Star Gazer* 1972 (72 x 36 inches), from the seminal exhibition *Paul Jenkins: Discoveries in Watercolor*, initiated by the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., December 1, 1972-January 7, 1973, will be on view. *Discoveries in Watercolor* traveled for two years throughout the United States, and was shown in California at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

Paul Jenkins has maintained a deep commitment to watercolor from his earliest beginnings, and his watercolors are found in museum collections throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. Early exhibitions of his watercolors in the United States include in 1956: "Recent American Watercolors," Museum of Modern Art, New York; and, in 1957: "41 American Watercolorists Today," a traveling exhibition organized by the International Program of the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Watercolors from 1958 acquired by Joseph Hirshhorn are in the collection of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. The Brooklyn Museum has shown his

.....

watercolors at various times beginning in 1959 ("20th Biennial Watercolor Exhibition"), and including "Masters of Light: Homer, Sargent and the American Watercolor Movement" in 1984 and 1998. He has shown his watercolors throughout Europe from the mid-50s and continuing, particularly in London and Paris.

In 1994, a traveling exhibition was organized in France consisting of 55 watercolors, including a group of works relating to the staging of his dance-drama, "Shaman to the Prism Seen," at the Paris Opera in 1989. The distinguished late art historian, Frank Anderson Trapp, wrote an in-depth study of the artist's watercolors in the accompanying catalogue.

Paul Jenkins entered the Art Students League of New York in 1948 and studied for four years with Yasuo Kuniyoshi. In 1953, he was pouring paint on canvas to achieve a dense viscosity of impacted color and achieved prominence in New York and Europe for these early abstractions. His first solo exhibition in New York was in 1956 at the Martha Jackson Gallery, one of the flagship galleries at that time with whom he had a long-term-association.

Over more than five decades, his paintings have been widely exhibited around the world. His first American retrospective, organized by Philippe de Montebello and Gerald Nordland, was held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (1971), traveling to the San Francisco Museum of Art (1972). Major retrospectives were held at the Palm Springs Desert Museum; Musée Picasso, Antibes; Kunstverein, Cologne; Kestner Gesellschaft, Hanover; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Charleroi. In 1999, the Hofstra Museum presented a retrospective of his early paintings from 1954-1960. His works are found in international museum and private collections including the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Brooklyn Museum in New York; the National Museum of American Art and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.; the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, Cambridge; the Tate Gallery in London; Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris; and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

In the Bay area, his work is found in the collections of the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.