

PAUL JENKINS — PAINTINGS FROM 2005—2008
Exhibition Dates: February 3—April 19, 2009

Currently on view at Robert Green Fine Arts is an exhibition of the Abstract Expressionist artist Paul Jenkins' recent paintings dating from 2005 to 2008. These striking works are being shown for the first time, and evidence a continuation of the artist's lifelong involvement with color, form and light.

Paul Jenkins, now in his 86th year, is known for the flowing color of his work combined with gestural abstraction in a renewed emphasis on the physicality of paint on primed canvas. Opacity and transparency alternate to both emanate and capture light. The dynamic tension created by these elements imbues the works with a sense of urgency that frees color to expand onto the canvas.

Born in 1923, Paul Jenkins entered the Art Students League of New York in 1948 and studied under Yasuo Kuniyoshi until 1952. 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, followed by his years at Gimpel Weitzenhoffer in New York.

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 in 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 to 1960. In 2000, the Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza held an exhibition of his large-scale canvases together with watercolors. The Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille held, in 2005, an exhibition of his large-scale works including painted elements for the décor of his dance-drama performed at the Paris Opera (1987).

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 Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.; 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, Stanford, the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive at the University of California, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the San Jose Museum of Art.