

HEMPHILL

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JACOB KAINEN

April 15 - June 10, 2017

Washington DC — HEMPHILL is pleased to announce the exhibition, *Jacob Kainen*, opening on Saturday, April 15, with a reception from 6-8pm. The exhibition will remain on view through June 10, 2017.

Following a trip to Russia in 1972, Jacob Kainen returned to his studio with a renewed perspective on making art. Exposure to 15th century Icon paintings during his travels profoundly expanded his spiritual understanding of painting and drove him to more thoroughly explore Abstract Expressionist concepts. This exploration manifested in a juxtaposition of more natural forms with geometric shapes. Despite the pared-down geometric forms, there is nothing simple about the paintings of this period. Kainen's forms vibrate on the canvas with perceivable brushstrokes overlapped by soft-edged shapes. Upon close inspection they are richly layered, carefully composed, and deeply intellectual. This exhibition showcases paintings on canvas from 1980 - 87.

Jacob Kainen (1909 - 2001) was an American painter and printmaker. Born in Waterbury, CT, he spent his early years in New York City. He moved to Washington, DC in 1942, taking a position as the first curator of Graphic Arts at the Smithsonian Institution. As a young artist, he studied at the Art Students League and at the Pratt Institute. In the 1930s he was employed by the Graphic Arts division of the WPA Federal Art Project, and was a member of the American Artists' Congress. His work is included in the collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Yale University Museum, New Haven, CT and the Whitney Museum, New York, NY among others. The Estate of Jacob Kainen is represented by Hemphill Fine Arts.

HEMPHILL was founded in Washington DC in 1993. The exhibition schedule features modern & contemporary art in all media by artists ranging from emerging to mid-career to modern masters.

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday–Saturday, 10:00am–5:00pm, and by appointment.
The gallery will be closed May 27 - 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Image: Jacob Kainen, Argosy VII, 1980, 48" x 36"

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