

## Adolph Gottlieb

### *Works on paper*

**March 12, 2009 – May 16, 2009**

Galería Elvira González continues the season with a one man exhibition of the American artist Adolph Gottlieb (New York 1903-1974).

He was a founding member of “The Ten” (1935), a group dedicated to abstract painting, and of the “New York Artist Painters”, another group of abstract painters, which included Mark Rothko, John Graham y George Constant. That same year Adolph Gottlieb wrote a letter, together with Mark Rothko to the New York Times, which set out the concerns of the American Abstract Expressionist movement.

In 1942 he showed his “Pictographies” in the Artists Gallery, New York. In 1945 he participated in numerous forums on Art and Culture, and throughout his career he received various prizes and commissions.

As Sanford Hirsch says Adolph Gottlieb’s career as an artist was one of many significant first. He was the first of his generation to travel to Europe, the first to have a solo exhibition (1929), also the first to have a joint retrospective (The Jewish Museum, New York, 1957), first American to received the Gran Premio at Sao Paolo Bienale (1963) and the first, and only artist to have a joint retrospective exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York, 1968).

This exhibition (the fourth hosted by Elvira Gonzalez Gallery) has eighteen works on paper dated between 1965 and 1973. Much of the Works of this exhibition belong to the series called “Burst”. This series is characterized by a vertical structure with one large circle on the top and a “burst” on the bottom. The first painting of this series is dated in 1956. In the 70’s Gottlieb started to paint another series with a horizontal structure, with three circles on the top of the painting over a monochrome background. Two examples of this series can be seen in the exhibition.

In all of Gottlieb’s work there is a brilliant use of colour. Colours some times blended, and at others times used directly from the paint tube applied to the paper with a precise gesture on the bursts over a clean background.

His work can be found in numerous collections: Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou (Paris); the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington), The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Los Angeles), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), the MOMA (New York), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), the Nationalgalerie (Berlin), the Tate Gallery (London) and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia (Madrid).



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