

GALERÍA ELVIRA GONZÁLEZ

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Esteban Vicente. *Obras de 1950 a 1996*

November 9th 2008 – January 10th 2009

Galería Elvira González The Elvira Gonzalez Gallery continues the season with a solo exhibition by Spanish artist Esteban Vicente (1903 - 2001), born in Turégano, Segovia, and died in Bridgehampton, Long Island, USA.

The exhibition brings together seven oils and eleven collages produced between 1950 and 1996. These eighteen works show the career of this artist who, although Spanish, lived and produced all his work in New York, where he travelled at the beginning of the Spanish Civil War; there he came into contact with the artistic current of Abstract Expressionism.

The encounter with this movement produced a substantial change in Esteban Vicente's work. The disappearance of the figure is replaced by signs, in the wake of De Kooning, and by colour fields characteristic of Rothko. He is selected for the most significant exhibitions of the period, such as New Talents 1950 and 9th Street, achieving a prominent place in the first generation of American Abstract Expressionism.

In both his oil paintings and collages, the background and foreground become indiscernible, with a predominance of volatile forms and strokes, dispersed throughout the canvas; stains of bright colours that form a perfect composition. As he said and very rightly brings out Fernandez-Cid in his text, "We must use the language of painting... form, structure, color, composition".

In 1991, the king awarded him the Gold Medal of Fine Arts, and in 1998 he was awarded the Prize of Arts; a year later he also received the Grand Cross of the Order of Alfonso X the Wise.

On the occasion of this exhibition, a catalogue is published with images of all the works accompanied by a text by Miguel Fernández-Cid where, under the title *Painting to Discover What Painting Is*, he makes a brilliant portrait of Esteban Vicente through several sentences by the artist himself.

This exhibition can be seen until January 10, 2009.



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