

NORMAN BLUHM

30 JANUARY - 15 MARCH 2025
511 WEST 22ND STREET

NEW YORK – MILES McENERY GALLERY is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings by Norman Bluhm (1921-1999). The artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery opens on 30 January at 511 West 22nd Street and will remain on view through 15 March 2025. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated digital catalogue featuring an essay by Alex Grimley.



“The current exhibition, focusing on the years 1967 to 1972, is the second presentation of Norman Bluhm’s art by the Miles McEnery Gallery, following the gallery’s 2022 exhibition of the artist’s paintings of the 1970s. The luscious, boldly colored paintings of that decade represent the culmination of a path Bluhm began charting in the works included in the current exhibition, as he advanced out of abstract expressionism.” — Alex Grimley in *Norman Bluhm in Context: 1967-1972*

Over the course of his decades long career, Norman Bluhm continually experimented with his artistic approach, challenging himself to develop a uniquely personal style. In the 1950s and '60s, his paintings featured raw splatters of splattered paint in muted colors and grayscale, marked by the visceral emotional fervor of the Abstract Expressionist movement, which was contemporary to his time. By the latter half of the 1970s, his style shifted, with more tightly rendered compositions rife with sumptuous swathes of paint in poppier pastel hues.

The selection of works on view, from 1967-1972, charts the conceptual evolution between these styles, revealing Bluhm’s growing confidence in the visual language that would come to define his oeuvre. Here, we see the emergence of bulging, vibrant forms, like sinewy objects caught in motion. Fleshy bands of color ricochet against the bounds of the canvas, while other forms appear to breathe and balloon into unoccupied space. Splatters of paint appear haphazardly across the canvas, as if capturing the impact of these almost figurative forms crashing into one another. The resulting compositions are no longer static images but rather movement and action captured on a two-dimensional plane.

Though, these works are not transitory chronicles of his artistic journey. Rather, as Alex Grimley notes, “they’re neither tentative nor unresolved. Bluhm executed them with the same confidence and conviction that had distinguished his art theretofore, and today they remain among the most vital works of his entire oeuvre.”

NORMAN BLUHM (b. 1921 in Chicago, IL) attended the Armour Institute of Technology (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) and studied architecture under Mies van der Rohe. After serving in the Second World War, he decided not to continue his architectural studies and instead began to study art. First, he attended the Accademia di Belle Arte in Florence, Italy and afterward, the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France.

During his lifetime, Bluhm’s work was the subject of solo exhibitions at Washburn Gallery, New York, NY; Riva Yares Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ; Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL; Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY, and Paul Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. He was also included in numerous group exhibitions at such venues as the Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport, CA; Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA; Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY; the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C.; Galerie Stadler, Paris, France; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; and The Parrish Art Museum, among others.

His work may be found in such permanent collections as the Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, NY; the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX; the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales; the Newark Museum of Art, New York, NY; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Norman Bluhm died in 1999 at the age of 78 in East Wallingford, VT.

For press inquiries, please contact press@milesmcenery.com
Image: *Philomela*, 1972, Oil on canvas, 96 x 108 inches, 243.8 x 274.3 ,cm