

Roland Flexner

Two Ghosts

11.04.2023

15.04.2023

MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique is very pleased to present Roland Flexner's fifth exhibition with the gallery, and first at Pièce Unique in Paris.

Two Ghosts is part of a series of paintings started in the 1980's with motifs drawn from the teeming riches of popular culture.

By painting cloth on canvas, our attention shifts to the material of color in an immersive pictorial tautology. The figures interact with the fabric of the canvas in an interplay of cool and warm shades of grey. *Two Ghosts* is realized in a subtractive process in which the materiality of paint is reduced to a transparent film that erases all traces of brushwork to achieve the unity of an image that appears all at once.

With this approach, the painting announced Flexner's iconic series of Mourners (Pleurants) where draped figures floated in featureless color in a fusion of gesture and gravity. This union of figure and abstraction brought together in a conceptual diptych, an image of sorrow reduced to a folded drapery and the ultimate degree of abstraction, the monochrome.

The uncanny quality of presence and absence characterizes much of the artist's work that includes the bubble drawings, figures and vanitas, Sumi ink works, and installations combining sculpture, drawing and photography.

In his drawing practice, Roland Flexner explores the expressive qualities of ink using breath, chance and gravity to reveal the pictorial potential of the medium that emerges out of abstraction, and suggests the ambiguous nature of images in the viewer's eyes.

Roland Flexner

Two Ghosts, 1987

Oil on canvas

157 × 122 cm / 62 × 48 inches

Roland Flexner was born in 1944 in Nice, France. He lives and works in New York City.

Solo shows include; Le Nouveau Musee National de Monaco. The Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art, OH. The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary art, CT. PS1 New York. Abbaye de Noirlac, France. Institut Franco-Japonais de Tokyo. Centre Regional d'Art Contemporain de Sete, France. His work was featured in exhibitions at: The Whitney Museum of American Art. Albright Knox Museum, Buffalo, NY. The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburg. Cleveland Museum of Art, OH. The Royal Academy of Arts, London. Serpentine Gallery, London. The National Museum of Modern Art Tokyo. The National Museum of Modern Art Osaka. Shangai Contemporary Art Museum, The Power Station, China. The Daejeon Museum of Art, Korea. The Centre Pompidou, Paris and Metz. Musee d'Art Moderne de Paris. Aishti Foundation, Beyrouth Lebanon. Moma PS1, Indianapolis Museum of Art. Flint Institute of Art, MI. Neuberger Museum of Art NY. The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, CT. Bass Museum of Art, FL. Nouveau Musee d'Art Moderne de Monaco. Orlando Museum of Art, FL. Musee d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Nice. He participated in The 75th Whitney Biennial 2010 at the Whitney Museum of American Art, The 4th Berlin Biennial, Germany. 1st Poznan Biennial, Poland, XIeme Biennale de Paris, France

The artist's works are represented in private and public collections, including: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art. The Albright Knox Museum. National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo. The Centre Pompidou, Paris. Francois Pinault collection, Paris. Denyse Durand-Ruel Collection. Fond National d'Art Contemporain, Paris. Indianapolis Museum of Art. The Morgan Library and Museum, New York. Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, MA. Flint Institute of Art, MI. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, CT. Musee d'Art Moderne de Saint Etienne. Musee d'Art Moderne de Strasbourg. Nouveau Musee National de Monaco. Musee d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain de Nice. Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon. Museu de Arte Contemporanea, Porto. Among others.