

MAJOR SURVEY EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY MILTON RESNICK OPENS AT MANA CONTEMPORARY



Milton Resnick, *Some Elephant*, 1980, Oil on canvas, 103 x 109 inches

JERSEY CITY, N.J., April 2, 2014—Mana Contemporary along with the Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation are pleased to announce *Milton Resnick (1917-2004): Paintings and Works on Paper from the Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation*, a major survey exhibition. Opening at Mana Contemporary in Jersey City on Saturday, May 10 and continuing to August 1, the exhibition will present work from Resnick's entire six-decade career, including a rare 1937 portrait; quintessential Abstract Expressionist paintings from the 1940s and '50s; a selection of the large allover paintings of the 1960s through 1980s for which Resnick is best known; and a group of late figurative works.

Drawn entirely from the holdings of the Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation, this will be the largest exhibition of Resnick's work to date, and the first career survey exhibition to be held on the East Coast. Museum retrospectives of Resnick's work have taken place in New

Mexico (1971) and Texas (1985) but never in New York, where it is long overdue.

Milton Resnick was born in Bratslav, Russia in 1917, and immigrated to New York City with his family in 1923. He grew up in Brooklyn, and entered the American Artists School in 1933. In the 1930s he was on the WPA Artists' Project and met Willem de Kooning, Arshile Gorky, John Graham, and other downtown artists. In 1940, Resnick was drafted and served in the U.S. Army through all of World War II. After returning to New York in September 1945, Resnick immediately began painting abstractions, thereby cementing his historical position as a member of the first generation of American Abstract Expressionists. He was a founding member of the Artists' Club of the 1950s. Over his long career, Resnick painted "through" classic Abstract Expressionist action painting to arrive at works that gave the impression of allover monochromatic fields, although in fact comprised of myriad hues. Through

the 1970s and 1980s his paint application became increasingly dense and his palette generally darkened, resulting in canvases of subtle, almost topographical presence. Radically uncompromising in their reliance on the materiality of paint, yet romantic and deeply satisfying, these works are considered to be his major achievement, and the entire first floor gallery at Mana is dedicated to paintings of this period. They include the landmark works *ELEPHANT*, 1987, at 18 feet long the largest painting in the exhibition, and *DEBRIS*, 1971, which is 17 feet long. In the last years of his life, Resnick turned to figurative and imagistic paintings, alternating darkness and mystery with humor. He died in 2004 in New York.

The exhibition at Mana Contemporary will open to the public on Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 7 p.m.

Free transportation from Manhattan will be provided.

ABOUT THE MILTON RESNICK AND PAT PASSLOF FOUNDATION:

The Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation was established in 2013 under the terms of the will of Resnick's widow, the painter Pat Passlof, to preserve, exhibit, research and publish their paintings and that of other Abstract Expressionists. To that end, Milton Resnick's former studio, a synagogue in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, is currently being renovated as an exhibition space and archive, projected to open in 2016.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit the website: resnickpasslof.org

ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY:

Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination with locations in Jersey City and Chicago. Studios, exhibition spaces, art services, and programming provide an unparalleled environment for creating and experiencing art. By exposing and exploring the artistic process, Mana Contemporary offers an exciting way to discover and learn about art while artists are enabled to experiment and collaborate across all disciplines, forms, and media.

For more information about Mana Contemporary, please visit: manacontemporary.com