

FORT GANSEVOORT



Dickie Landry | Highway 31

On View:

Thursday May 5, 2016 – Saturday June 25, 2016

Opening Reception: May 5, 6-9PM

Fort Gansevoort is pleased to present an exhibition of geometric abstract paintings by **Richard “Dickie” Landry**, on view beginning May 5, 2015.

Now 77 years old, the Louisiana-born Richard “Dickie” Landry has been predominately known as a composer and musician, collaborating with fellow artists and musicians as varied as Paul Simon, David Byrne, Philip Glass, Robert Plant, Robert Wilson and Bob Dylan.

Landry has also extensively documented his life through photographs. A collection of images from his formative years in the 1970s in New York has traveled from Germany to Laramie, Wyoming.

For the first time in New York, however, this spring, Fort Gansevoort will exhibit a number of his large-scale paintings with several of his early drawings from the 1970s.

“Dickie gets a lot of attention as a musician and a solo saxophone player, not to mention a lot of attention as a photographer, but not many people know about him as a painter,” says Adam Shopkorn, owner of Fort Gansevoort. “When I first saw his paintings, I was surprised that he hadn’t shown them in New York. I thought they were very powerful.”

Having the work exhibited for the first time in New York City “means a lot,” says Landry. “People have seen photos of it, but the photos don’t do any justice.”

Landry began painting in the early 1990s in Florida. He describes the work, which plays with the viewer’s perception, as “three dimensions on a flat plane.” Using a format that has been called “axometric projection,” the paintings are inspired by old television sets of the 1960s. The effect transforms a cube into a symmetrical, irregular hexagonal shape.

“The first painting I did was a real emotional turn-on and the more I painted, the more fascinated I became,” says Landry, who, to this day isn’t sure what attracted him to the abstract shapes. “Why do jazz musicians come up with their improvisations? They come from somewhere in the mind, and I don’t know why.”

When Landry first moved to New York in the late 1960s, he found himself amongst a coterie of artists. His first concert and photography show, for instance, was at the Leo Castelli Gallery. It was Castelli who encouraged his painting, but he died before the work could be seen at the gallery.

As Landry met more and more artists, including Joan Jonas, Laurie Anderson, Keith Sonnier, Richard Serra and Mary Heilmann, he started collaborating with them, helping to conceive and build new work but also photographing the process at the same time.

FORT GANSEVOORT

Landry had his first photography show in New York in 1972, and then another in 1975. Recently, he has resurrected his personal darkroom to make silver gelatin prints. He is considering incorporating them into the new paintings that he is currently making.

Landry left New York after September 11th and returned to his hometown of Cecilia, Louisiana, where he continues to paint, perform music, and manage an 80-acre pecan farm.

Dickie Landry Bio

Born in Cecilia, Louisiana, Mr. Landry has performed his solo saxophone works in major venues in the USA, Canada, Europe, Russia, Cuba, Haiti, South America, India, Taiwan and Japan. Besides his solo work, Mr. Landry has performed and collaborated with other composers, musicians, artists, theatre directors and choreographers including, Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Talking Heads, Robert Plant, Robert Wilson, Keith Sonnier, Richard Serra, Chuck Close, Lawrence Weiner, Robert Rauschenberg, Gordon Matta-Clark, and Trisha Brown. His return to Lafayette, Louisiana has him performing with the All Star Legendary Swamp Pop group, Lil Band o' Gold and the Creole Reggae group, True Man Posse.

Mr. Landry worked with theatre director Robert Wilson as music director/performer/composer on "1433" "The Grand Voyage," a music theater work inspired by the story of Admiral Zheng He that had its World Premiere at National Theater of Taiwan in Taipei and starred Chinese opera diva Mei-Yun Tang and U Theatre Director Chih-Chung Huang with costumes by Tim Yip. Mr. Landry also worked with Robert Wilson on a production of Jean Genet's play "The Blacks" in Paris at the Odeon Theater.

His "Mass for Pentecost Sunday," a commission by Domnique De Menil for the opening of the Menil Collection in Houston, Texas premiered at the Rothko Chapel in 1986. Most recently a collection of his artist photographs titled "Dickie Landry's" NYC 1969-1979" were exhibited at Salomon Contemporary in conjunction with a solo concert at the Guggenheim Museum. A retrospective of his work was shown at the University Art Museum at Laramie, Wyoming and also at the Center for the Arts in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

Mr. Landry's paintings, videos, photographs and drawings have been shown in galleries and museums around the world. Most notably, at Leo Castelli Gallery, Whitney Museum, Los Angeles County Museum, San Francisco Museum of Art and the Brazil Biennale.