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PAINTINGS: CALVERT Coggleshall AND FREDERICK HAMMERSLEY
MAY 21 - JUNE 27, 1987

Opening: Thursday, May 21, 1987 6-8pm.
Illustrated catalogue with essays by Merle Schipper and
Hedda Sterne.
Artist Talk by Frederick Hammersley, Saturday May 23, 4pm.

PAINTINGS: CALVERT COGGESHALL AND FREDERICK HAMMERSLEY is
a show of abstract paintings and the fourth in a series of
exhibitions at Artists Space presenting the work of mature
artists. The series was initiated in 1983 with funds from
the Mark Rothko Foundation. As the work of young and
experimental artists has become increasingly welcomed into
the mainstream of contemporary art, the equally
challenging work of many older artists has been somewhat
overlooked. This series attempts to present the work of
serious artists who have been working for many years in
innovative modes, outside of current trends, who have not
received adequate recognition for the high quality of
their work. The commitment and generosity of the Mark
Rothko Foundation initiated this series and over the past
four years has supported Artists Space's endeavors to
present this work. Coggleshall and Hammersley were selected
by a committee of Artists Space Board and Staff: Richard
Armstrong, Hermine Ford, Irving Sandler, Valerie Smith and
Susan Wyatt.

Coggleshall and Hammersley have consistently worked in an
abstract mode yet each artist has chosen a very different
path of investigation. Coggleshall's paintings are quiet,
contemplative and reductive whereas Hammersley's are
bright, extroverted and biomorphic. Among many issues that
distinguish this work from current abstract art is an
interest in purity over excess, a need to reduce the
variables of the image, rather than load them with art
historical or decorative references. Coggleshall has
worked on the East Coast and over his long career
associated with artists such as Bradley Walker Tomlin and
Jack Tworkov. Hammersley was part of the Abstract
Classicism group in Los Angeles, whose other members
included: Karl Benjamin, Lorser Feitelson, and John
McLaughlin. Coggleshall and Hammersley have been working
in very different styles inspired by their separate
environments and influences. Each of their individual
visions provide a thoughtful point of comparison and
explore the range of possibilities within the abstract
mode.
Calvert Coggeshall’s paintings are saturated with color, such as Japan blue or Japan brown. The color is applied in varying degrees of translucency which creates deep space with pure color while at the same time activating the surface. Coggeshall lives and works in Newcastle, Maine. He has shown his work consistently at the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York from 1951 to 1980. He has also shown his work at the Los Angeles County Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, New York and most recently at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine. He was also a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Frederick Hammersley will show two bodies of work: one completed prior to 1982 and the second started since then. The earlier work consists of brightly colored hard-edged geometric paintings that have strong optical resonance. Since 1982 Hammersley’s paintings have become smaller and the forms suggest organic shapes and images. These forms continue to be brightly colored, their juxtapositions are daring and often create an unsettling feeling. The frames are also a part of the work, meticulously made, with subtle details that suggest the South West. Hammersley lives and works in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has shown at the E. A. Louver Gallery, Venice California; the Hoshour Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Albuquerque Museum; the Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe; and most recently he showed his early work at the R. C. Erpf Gallery, New York. Hammersley has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with black and white and color photographs and essays on Coggeshall and Hammersley. Hedda Sterne, an artist who lives in New York, has written a statement about Coggeshall’s work and Merle Schipper, an art historian and freelance critic who lives and works in Los Angeles, has written an essay about Hammersley’s current work. The catalogue will provide biographical information on both artists and will be available at Artists Space $3.00.

On Saturday, May 23rd at 4pm Frederick Hammersley will give an informal talk about his work. The talk is free and open to the public. Hammersley will show slides of his work and discuss the concepts it addresses as well as its development.