

Artists Space

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALLY HAZELET DRUMMOND: Paintings, 1971-84.
February 25 - March 24, 1984

Opening Reception: Saturday, February 25, 1984, 5-7pm.

Artists Space is pleased to announce the opening of Sally Hazelet Drummond's exhibition, Paintings, 1971-84, on February 25, 1984. It will run through March 24 and is the second show in a new series at Artists Space that is being sponsored by the Mark Rothko Foundation.

This pilot series was conceived to present three exhibitions by mature, mid-career artists whose work has not received extensive public exposure. According to Linda Shearer, Executive Director of Artists Space, it has become clear that there is an increasing number of serious artists who have been working for many years-- outside of current trends, yet in innovative styles -- who deserve recognition for the high quality of their work. This series is designed to respond to this need; all three artists -- Ernst Benkert and Mowry Baden, as well as Drummond -- have been selected by Gary Burnley, artist, and Donald Droll, Associate Director of the Weatherspoon Gallery at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, both of whom are also members of the Artists Space Board of Directors, and by Ms. Shearer.

It was in New York during the fifties, when much of the art community was concentrated on Tenth Street, that Drummond developed her characteristic style which combines an intensity of feeling with a certain cool calmness so emblematic of the sixties. Her paintings are historically significant in their tendency to bridge the gap between the action painting of the fifties and the minimalism of the sixties. As Irving Sandler, the noted critic and art historian writes in the brochure accompanying this exhibition, she "simplified color and gesture, ending up with one-color fields of subtly nuanced surfaces, in order to create a 'World of Silent Painting,' as she wrote at the time...By 1960, she began to use a pointillist technique to slowly build up a vibrating, all-over image and at the same time to accent more than before the centrifugal, aureole-like radiation." Drummond herself defines the work as being "about the concept of oneness -- everything being connected, no foreground, no background, no separations, like a humming, a drone, emanating from somewhere, a unified field, pulsating, energetic." Thirteen paintings, dating from 1971 to 1984, will be included in the exhibition, her first one-person show in New York since 1978.

Drummond was born in 1924 in Evanston, Illinois, and is currently living in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Her work was seen most recently in a group exhibition at P.S. 1, "Abstract Painting: 1960-69," in 1983. During the sixties and the seventies, her work was included in exhibitions at the Greene Gallery, which represented her until it closed, and then at the Fischbach Gallery, as well as in many group shows in Europe and the United States. In 1972, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington mounted the first retrospective of her work. Drummond was awarded a Fulbright for study in Venice in 1952-53 as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1967-68. Her paintings are included in collections at the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Corcoran Gallery, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

This series represents a pilot project for the Mark Rothko Foundation whose generous support is in recognition of the Foundation's desire to contribute to the art community by funding exhibitions of work by mature artists. The Directors of the Foundation hope that other exhibitions of this nature can continue as a complement to the Foundation's objective of providing a better understanding and appreciation of Mark Rothko's work through its Mark Rothko Viewing Facility and Study Center. Linda Shearer has written that "Artists Space is particularly fortunate to be the first recipient of a grant to undertake" this project.

Sally Hazelet Drummond's exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated, 8-page brochure, with acknowledgements by Linda Shearer, Introduction by Irving Sandler, Statement by Sally Hazelet Drummond, Biography and Exhibition History. Available at Artists Space: \$1.

The series will conclude with Mowry Baden's exhibition which will take place from April 17 to May 5, 1984. It will also be accompanied by an illustrated brochure.

Artists Space activities are made possible by grants from: the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts; the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Lauder Foundation, Samuel Rubin Foundation; and our corporate sponsors, AT&T Long Lines, Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, Consolidated Edison, EXXON, Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb, R.H. Macy and Company, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Philip Morris, and Warner Communications. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm.

COMMITTEE FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

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