

Avery to Warhol Self-Guided Tour

Close to Home: Local Artists on Display – Examine the contributions of artists who lived and worked in Florida



| James Rosenquist
American (1933 -
2017)
Flamingo Capsule,
1973
Lithograph and
screenprint on
paper
Gift of Dr. Chi
Chiou Liu

What recognizable
objects do you see

in this lithograph? How would you describe them? Does the background aid in your looking process? Why or why not?

In the late 1950s, James Rosenquist painted billboards for a living. In the 1960s, he became a well-known American Pop artist by combining his knowledge of commercial art techniques with using popular imagery and everyday objects in his artwork. Most of his works are monumental in scale. In fact, this lithograph is based on Rosenquist's painting of the same title, which measures around 9 x 22 feet, and is part of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's collection. In 1967, during a training session for the flight of Apollo 1, a fire killed three astronauts who were aboard the spacecraft. Both painting and lithograph are dedicated to the astronauts and the American space program. How does this knowledge add to or take away from your initial interpretation of this lithograph?

Rosenquist said in a 1987 interview, "To be creative is to be accepting, but it's also to be harsh on one's self. You just don't paint colors for the silliness of it all. And maybe it has to be different, some new pictorial invention. There's a meaning and an idea and many layers of vision in the same picture. And so at first glimpse, it looks like that and then you look a little further and go, 'Oh there's something there too.' There's more there." Look one more time at *Flamingo Capsule*. Can you find more here?

James Rosenquist built a home and studio in Aripeka, Florida, around 1976. He lived and worked there until a fire destroyed both in 2009.

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John Seery
American (b. 1941)
Fever Coast, 1973
Acrylic on canvas
Gift of Carter and Susan Hopkins

Look at this artwork initially from a comfortable distance. Take a few moments to notice all aspects of this canvas.

What was the first thing you noticed? What drew your eye there? Now, what do you considered to be the dominant part of this artwork? Is this in line with what you observed first? Why or why not?

Originally a New Yorker, John Seery was born in 1941. He spent his teen years in Cincinnati, Ohio, went to school in Ohio, and then served on the faculty of Massachusetts College of Art and Design and was a visiting lecturer at Harvard University.

He currently lives and works in Florida.

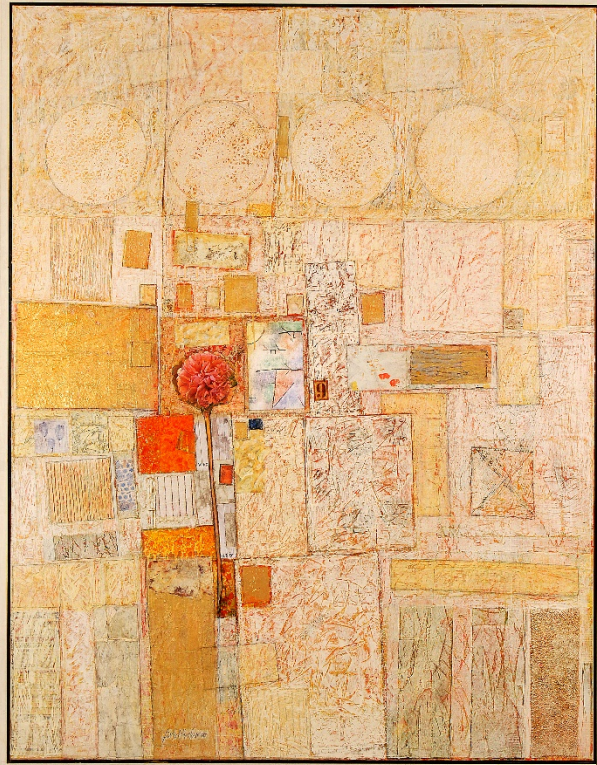
Seery is considered to be part of an artistic movement that emerged during the early 1970s called Lyrical Abstraction. The artist said this about the movement, “Many at the time thought Lyrical Abstraction was reaction against some previous form of painting, but in reality it was an affirmation of painting. Rather than attacking the painting from the outside, it was more of an entering into or inhabiting the painting.”

Through his own artistic process, Seery invites viewers to inhabit or enter his paintings. What would you see, feel, and possibly hear as you enter *Fever Coast*?

Now, move closer to the painting. What details do you notice up close that you didn't see initially? Recall what you considered to be the dominant aspect of this painting. Do you still agree now that you are closer? Why or why not?

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Patrick Archer
American (b. 1925)
Fleur et Klee (Flower and Klee), 2000
Collage and acrylic on canvas
Gift of the Artist

Look closely and observe the elements found on the canvas. Can you identify some of the elements, such as the colors, lines and shapes? How would you describe the pattern in the arrangement of the objects?

Patrick Archer received his graduate degree from California College of the Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California. He is a working collage artist who taught a variety of art classes and color theory at Palm Beach Community College for a number of years. He still teaches private lessons at his South Florida studio.

Fleur et Klee is a Geometric Abstraction collage consisting of paper and acrylic paint on canvas. A collage is a two-dimensional form of art that contains different items affixed together to form a design or pattern. Why might an artist choose to express his or her originality by creating a collage rather than a painting?

Close to the center of this collage, Archer included a laser-printed reproduction of an artwork titled *Harbour with Sailing Ships* from 1937 by modern artist Paul Klee. Archer added a flower next to the Klee artwork. What is the significance of this? If you were to create your own personal collage, what elements might you include?

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Gustaf Miller
American, b. 1940
Soldiers in Pink, 1995
Acrylic on board
Museum Purchase with funds
provided by the John McLaughlin
Booth Memorial Fund

As you look at this painting, notice the artist's use of colors and shapes. Do patterns emerge the longer you look? Where do you see them?

Gustaf completed his BFA and MFA at Syracuse University in 1963. After postgraduate studies in

Rome, Gus and his artist wife settled in Massachusetts, before moving to Vero Beach in 1986. They are active members of artist communities here and in Stonington, Massachusetts.

Miller describes himself as an Abstract Constructivist. Constructivism is a branch of Abstract art that was founded by Russian Avant Garde artists around 1915. This geometric style is dictated by the properties of the materials utilized, rather than on traditional artistic concerns of composition. The grid-like format included in this painting references artists of the early 1900s who used this format to be emblematic of modernity in art. Looking at this in 2020, do you consider this “modern?” Why or why not?

Look closely at this painting, what do you notice about the texture? Miller typically uses a variety of colors in his paintings and values highly textured surfaces, often by layering a lot of paint in the application process. Did you notice these aspects when you first looked at this artwork? How do these details change your view of *Soldiers in Pink*?