

JULIAN STANCZAK

The Life of the Surface: Paintings, 1970 – 1975

On view through July 14, 2017

534 West 26th Street, New York



Mitchell-Innes & Nash presents *The Life of the Surface: Paintings, 1970 – 1975*, an exhibition of paintings by Julian Stanczak exclusively from the years 1970 to 1975. This long-planned exhibition of Stanczak's paintings is Mitchell-Innes & Nash's second solo exhibition with the artist, and the first since his recent passing on March 25, 2017.

Stanczak's reverence for color comes from a desire to translate the drama and power of nature into a universal impression. His canvases are created through a complex process of tape masks upon which colors are

systematically added and unveiled in layers. Despite the intricate and painstaking process, Stanczak does not use any preparatory drawings for his paintings, relying solely on his own vision of a finished work.

Stanczak's work transcends traditional nods to analytical painting methods often associated with this period. By drawing upon personal experiences, particularly the diverse places he has lived. Utilizing tromp l'oeil characteristics, Stanczak's paintings engender the vibration of a distinct visual experience from within the surface of the canvas. In works like *Filtration- Opposing to Red* (1974-77) the color radiates from the center, vibrating across the surface of the canvas. The light oscillates and encompasses the viewer, creating an engaging and thoughtful experience with color. While the intensity is similar, the cool tones of *Soft Light* (1972-73) resonate at a gradual pace and generate a calmer energy. The artist described his titles as "provocative of the experience that parallels [his] initial response," rather than direct descriptions.

Julian Stanczak was born in Poland in 1928. His early life was marked by enormous personal struggle. During World War II, Stanczak and his family were forced into a labor camp in Siberia, where they survived extreme conditions and near starvation. Stanczak ultimately fled to a Polish refugee camp in Uganda in the late 1940s, where he started to make work inspired by the atmospheric light of Africa. In 1950, Stanczak immigrated to the United States, where he studied under Josef Albers at Yale University. Albers's teachings on color theory and the precision of geometric forms would become fundamental to the development of Stanczak's mature style and method. Fueled by his own personal history of shifting geography, the perceptual effect of Stanczak's paintings can range from a subtle vibrant glow to an electric, rhythmic oscillation.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by David Anfam, published by Mitchell-Innes & Nash, accompanies the exhibition.

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program, in both their Madison Avenue and Chelsea locations, fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Jay DeFeo, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

Caption: Julian Stanczak, Installation view of *The Life of the Surface, Paintings 1970 – 1975* at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, NY, 2017. © The Estate of Julian Stanczak. Courtesy of Mitchell-Innes & Nash, NY

Listings Information:

Mitchell-Innes & Nash is located at 534 West 26th Street in Chelsea and 1018 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side.

Tel: 212 744 7400 | Web: www.miandn.com | Email: josie@miandn.com

Press Inquires:

Taylor Maatman | FITZ & CO | Tel: 646 589 0926 | Email: tmaatman@fitzandco.art

Yun Lee | FITZ & CO | Tel: 646 589 0920 | Email: ylee@fitzandco.art