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GARAGE

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Hilma af Klint Proved That “Popular” Doesn’t Have to Mean “Stupid”

After the Guggenheim’s smash success, 6 artists who could become intelligent blockbusters.



Kiki Kogelnik, *Friends*, 1964, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 291.8 x 364 cm (114 7/8 x 143 1/4 in.). Image courtesy Kiki Kogelnik Foundation and Mitchell-Innes & Nash.

Kiki Kogelnik

Chic, colorful, and undeniably contemporary, the paintings and sculpture of this Austrian artist could easily find a broad audience beyond the insular art world. Crackling with feminist wit and energy, the works are enigmatic yet accessible. Josephine Nash, of Mitchell-Innes & Nash, has been heartened by reactions to Kogelnik's works at fairs like Frieze New York; she's gearing up for the gallery's first solo exhibition of the artist, opening May 23. "We've received a lot of interest from museums who are looking to expand their holdings of historical works from the '60s, '70s, and '80s by female artists. What has been equally encouraging is that we have witnessed a lot of interest from other artists who are drawn to Kogelnik's singular vision and consistent experimentation throughout her career. There has never been a major US museum retrospective of Kogelnik's work and, like Hilma af Klint's, it doesn't fit neatly into existing art-historical categories. Kogelnik touches upon so many topics that are so potent today, ranging from the uneasy relationship between technological innovation and human life; the 'Space Race' and moon landing; to the destruction of socially constructed gender roles."