

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

*LEON KOSSOFF: Drawn from the Old Masters*

FRIEZE MASTERS, LONDON

OCTOBER 15 – 19, 2014



Mitchell-Innes & Nash and Annely Juda Fine Art are pleased to announce a solo presentation of works on paper by Leon Kossoff. The exhibition will include 38 works (a combination of etchings and drawings) made after paintings by some of the Old Masters of Western art: Cezanne, Goya, Poussin, Rembrandt, Titian, and Veronese among them. Kossoff's drawings were made when masterpieces by these artists were in London for exhibition, either at the National Gallery, the Royal Academy, or other London institutions. They not only recreate the experience of encountering these paintings, but revivify it with their bold and passionate lines.

The drawings selected for this exhibition span several decades, from the 1970s through the 1990s, and will be on view at Frieze Masters, from October 15 through 19, 2014. Kossoff's habit was to visit museums in the early morning, making use of the privilege granted to distinguished artists to draw in certain galleries before they

opened to the public for the day. Using black, grey, and colored chalk on large sheets of paper, he would study his chosen works by making repeated drawings, rapidly absorbing the composition, the light, the space, and the relationship between his drawing and the original work. The drawings create a connection that spans centuries, creating a correspondence and a continuity between the past and the present.

This unique presentation highlights Kossoff's practice of selecting some of the most singular images in the Western canon and transforming them in his own style. From Titian's *Flaying of Marsyas* to Poussin's *Rape of the Sabines* to Cezanne's *Murder*, many of the paintings Kossoff chose to draw herald alarm, their energy caught in the compressed dynamism of the drawing.

Other works, including a remarkable series from Goya, show Kossoff's range and subtlety. Two drawings based on Goya's depictions of the feast of San Isidro, and two depicting the Sierra de Tardienta, are full of light and air—Kossoff interprets the Spanish landscape with touches of pale blue and ochre.

In other Kossoff drawings of Goya paintings, action dominates: the flagellants stampede around a figure of the Virgin, their pointed hats and belted robes creating a frenzied forcefield; the madmen ape and parrot the pretensions of those who have shut them away. These powerful drawings constitute just one aspect of Kossoff's work, testimony to the enquiry and interrogation that underpins his entire oeuvre, and the dialogue with the Old Masters that has nourished him throughout his career.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Andrea Rose, Director of Visual Arts, British Council, and curator of Kossoff's exhibition at the 1995 Venice Biennale.

Leon Kossoff (b.1926) is one of Britain's greatest living artists. Kossoff's recent U.S. exhibitions include *Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff: Drawings and Prints after Nicholas Poussin* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, *Poussin*

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

*Landscapes by Leon Kossoff* at the J. Paul Getty Museum, and *After Nicolas Poussin: New Etchings by Leon Kossoff* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, all in 2000. In 2013, the exhibition *Leon Kossoff: London Landscapes* was on view at Annelly Juda Fine Art, London; Galerie Lelong, Paris; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; and LA Louver, LA. International exhibitions of note include *Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting at the National Gallery*, London (2007), *Leon Kossoff: Selected Paintings 1956 – 2000* at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebaek, Denmark (2002), *Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff-Drawings and Prints after Nicholas Poussin* at the National Gallery of Australia and Annandale Galleries, Sydney in 2002; a major retrospective at the Tate Gallery in London in 1996 and Kossoff's exhibition in the British Pavilion at the 1995 Venice Biennale.

## 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, William Pope L., Virginia Overton, 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.

## About Annelly Juda Fine Art

Annelly Juda Fine Art is based in London and represents contemporary British, European and International artists. The gallery also exhibits masters of the 20th century avant-garde, specializing in Russian Constructivism, Bauhaus and De Stijl. Over 35 artists are represented by the gallery. Those from Britain include David Hockney, Anthony Caro, David Nash, Nigel Hall and Leon Kossoff. International artists include Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Eduardo Chillida, Katsura Funakoshi and Tadashi Kawamata. The gallery also represents the estates of Naum Gabo, Kenneth and Mary Martin, Prunella Clough and Friedrich Vordemberge-Gildewart.

Since its foundation in 1960 the gallery has presented a continual program of its own artists as well as important themed exhibitions such as *The Non-Objective World* exhibitions (1970 onwards), *From Figuration to Abstraction* (1986), *1945 - The End of the War*, *The Thirties: Influences on Abstract Art in Britain* (summer 1998), *American Beauty* (2002) and *The Great Experiment: Russian Art Homage to Camilla Gray* (2009).

Image Caption: *After Goya: The Madhouse*, charcoal and pastel on paper, 52.5 x 75 cm 20 ½ x 29 ½ in.

**Listings information:** Frieze Masters will be open to the public from Wednesday, October 15 through Sunday, October 19, 2014. The fair is located in Regent's Park, London.

## Press Inquiries:

Taylor Maatman

FITZ & CO

+1-212-627-1455 x260

[Taylor.Maatman@Fitzandco.com](mailto:Taylor.Maatman@Fitzandco.com)

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH