

HASSEL SMITH (1915-2007) 9000 and 9 Nights

Signed lower left, "9000 + 9 nights Hassel Smith 1981" and signed verso, "'9000 + 9 nights' Hassel Smith 1981" and numbered and dated verso (on the stretcher), "#5 - 81" acrylic and graphite on canvas

68 x 68 1/8 in. (68 3/4 x 68 7/8 x 2 1/2 in.) 172.72 x 173.04 cm (174.63 x 174.94 x 6.35 cm) 1981

31519

PROVENANCE:

Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco Bonhams, Made in California: Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, May 8, 2019 Heather James Fine Art, California

Considered by critics as a "West Coast underground legend," Hassel Smith was an influential member of the experimental school of artists that emerged from post-World War II California. Together with Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko, and Richard Diebenkorn, Smith made his name at the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) and from 1950 until the mid-1960s with successful exhibitions in Europe and on both coasts of the US. While his breakthrough paintings are characterized by their wildly vibrant brushstrokes and explosions of color, Smith was equally adept in a more restrained style, producing in later years the magisterial sequence of "measured" abstractions.

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