



PAUL JENKINS (1923-2012)**Untitled**

Signed lower middle, "Paul Jenkins"

acrylic on canvas

71 1/2 x 128 1/2 in. (73 9/16 x 129 7/8 x 1 1/2 in.)

181.61 x 326.39 cm (186.85 x 329.88 x 3.81 cm)

c. 1970

33560

PROVENANCE:

Estate of HH Shams Pahlavi, Santa Barbara, California

Heritage Auctions Texas: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 [Lot 64030] Modern &

Contemporary Art Signature Auction

Private Collection, Los Angeles

Paul Jenkins is renowned for his technique of controlled paint pouring and use of translucent colors. His paintings drew upon a wide range of philosophies from Gurdjieff to Goethe, Jung to Zen Buddhism, astrology to alchemy. Jenkins remarked of his painting process, "I try to paint like a craps shooter throwing dice, utilizing past experience and my knowledge of the odds. It's a big gamble, and that's why I love it." A combination of chance and control (Jenkins used a dull ivory knife to guide the paint) reveals paintings of dazzling depth and beauty with their sinuous seams and arcs of phenomenal colors.

Jenkins primed his canvas so that unlike those of other Color Field artists, the paint did not soak in and instead, flowed and pooled – perhaps best exemplified in this large-scale painting with gem-like colors. Whether oil, acrylic, or watercolor, Jenkins displayed a mastery over these media so that both the process and the product are united.

As a member of the Abstract Expressionist movement, Paul Jenkins was renowned for his technique of controlled paint pouring and use of translucent colors. His paintings were influenced by his early interest in Eastern religions and philosophy, the writings of Carl Jung, and by Goethe's color theories, which inspired him to preface the titles of his works with the word "Phenomena," followed by a key word or phrase.

Throughout the 1960s, Jenkins' work was shown at major galleries and museums worldwide, including Tokyo, London, New York, Paris, and Amsterdam. In 1963, he took over de Kooning's light-infused loft in Union Square where he worked until 2000. Regarding his paintings, Jenkins once said, "I have conversations with them, and they tell me what they want to be called." Until his death in New York City in June 2012, Jenkins continued to work in acrylic on canvas, as well as watercolor on paper.

Jenkins' work is found in international museums and collections including The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and San Francisco, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, and the Tate Gallery in London. Thousands of items from the artist's archives are now at the Archives of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC.

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