

HASSEL SMITH (1915-2007)

Piano, Bass and Drums

Signed upper left, "HWS 1961" and titled lower middle, "Piano, Bass & Drums" oil on canvas 67 7/8 x 48 1/4 in. (68 5/8 x 49 1/4 x 2 1/4 in.)

33798

1961

PROVENANCE:

Paule Anglim Gallery, San Francisco 1980 Private Collection, San Francisco

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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