



JAMES ROSENQUIST (1933-2017)

Samba School

Studio Registration # 86.06

Signed verso, "James Rosenquist"

oil on canvas over panel

78 x 132 in.

1986

38004

PROVENANCE:

Richard L. Feigen & Co., New York

The Peter B. Lewis Collection

Sotheby's, Contemporary Art Day Auction, November 2014, lot 232

Private Collection, New York

Private Collection, Florida

EXHIBITION:

New York, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Houston, The Menil Collection; Houston, The Museum of Fine Arts; Bilbao, Guggenheim Museum, James Rosenquist: A Retrospective, October 2003 - October 2004, cat. no. 108, p. 213, illustrated in color

LITERATURE:

Oliver Stone, Director, Wall Street, USA, 1987, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

James Rosenquist's contributions to Pop Art's development, along with his contemporaries Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, and Roy Lichtenstein, would leave an indelible mark on art history. Rosenquist's humble beginnings as a billboard painter were a stark contrast to his widely acknowledged status as one of the greatest artists of his generation at the time of his death in 2017.

"Samba School" (1986) is a billboard-scale work imbued with a sense of movement and color, much like the dance that inspired the painting. Rosenquist's iconic work, "F-111" (1964-65) at the Museum of Modern art in New York, shares a similar sense of scale and visual energy. Rosenquist's developments in the 1960s and 1970s led to a high level of proficiency in working with these large paintings from which a distinct and powerful visual language emerge.

This painting was featured in the 1987 Oliver Stone film "Wall Street" as well as the 2003-2004 exhibition, "James Rosenquist: A Retrospective," which traveled between the Menil Collection and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, and featured prominently at the Guggenheim Museum in the artist's beloved New York City.

A leader of 1960's pop art, James Rosenquist was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1933. After his family moved to Minneapolis, he studied art at both the Minneapolis School of Art and the University of Minnesota. Upon receiving a scholarship to the Art Students League in 1955, Rosenquist moved to New York City. Although he left the school after only a year, he painted billboards across the city before renting a studio space in Manhattan in 1960 where he developed his own artistic career. Rosenquist

had his first solo show at the Green Gallery in New York in 1962 and achieved international acclaim with his room-scale painting, F-111 in 1965. Subsequently, Rosenquist has been honored throughout his extensive career. In 1978, he was appointed to a six-year term on the Board of the National Council of the Arts. More recently in 2002, he was given the Fundacion Cristobal Gabarron's annual international award for art in recognition of his contributions to universal culture. Rosenquist's work continues to evolve and influence contemporary artists.

Rosenquist's billboard painting served as the basis for his visual language, often adapted from advertising and pop culture. His work demonstrates a clear interest in deliberate color, line, and shape. However much of his work fragments and overlaps disproportionate images to abstract banal objects such as laundry detergent. Effectively, Rosenquist's work confronts the viewer in unexpected ways, pushing them to reconsider consumer culture. Although primarily a painter, Rosenquist also produced numerous prints, drawings, and collages. In fact, his 1992 print Time Dust is cited as the world's largest print in the world at 7 x 35 feet. Today, he continues to work and execute large-scale commissions including his three-painting suite The Swimmer in the Econo-mist for Deutsche Guggenheim 1998.

The information and material herein represents Gallery's best efforts and understanding of the current history and scholarship with respect to the provenance of the Work(s) of Art described and is not part of any warranty.

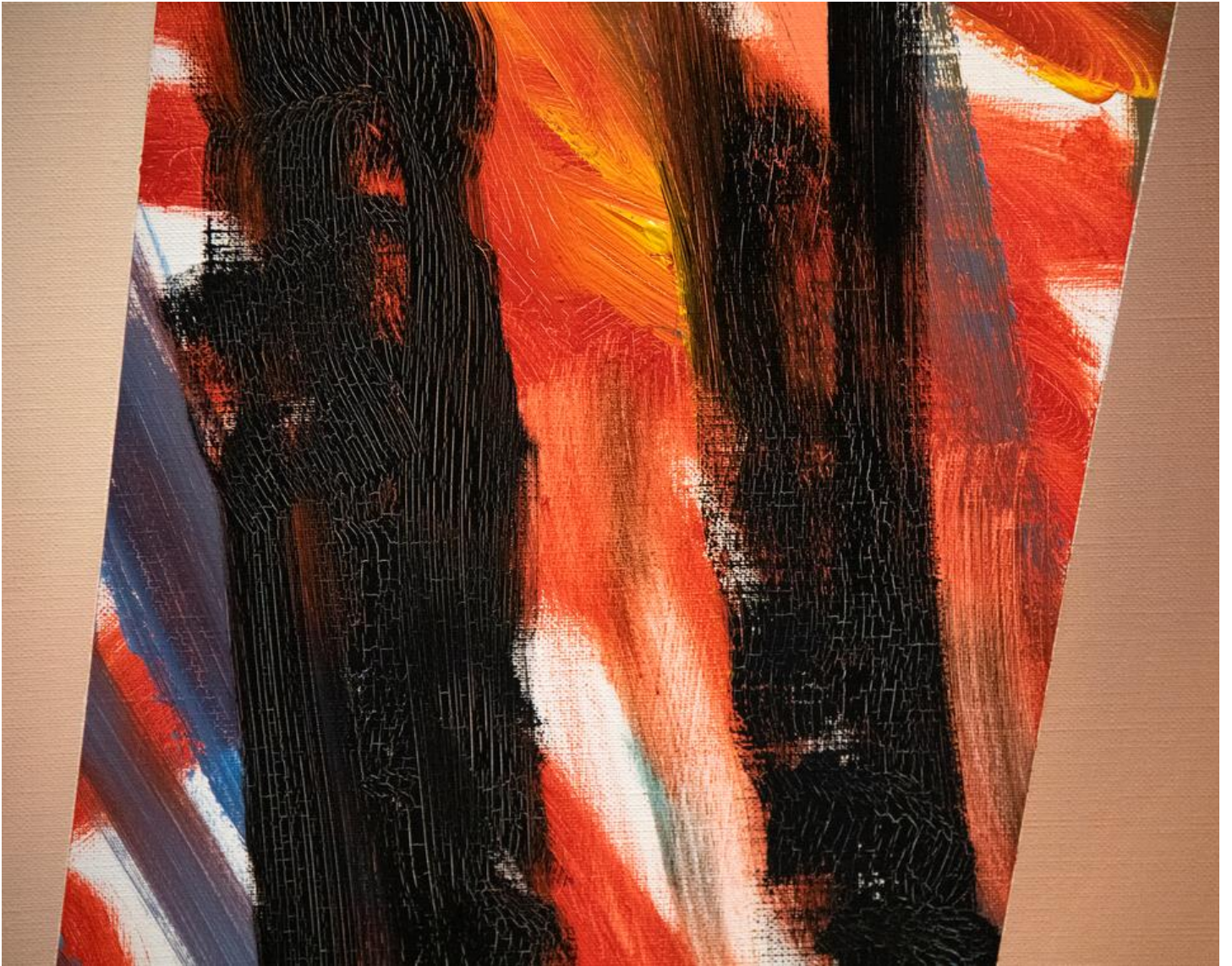
















SAMBA SCHOOL 1986 78"X132"

James Rosenquist