



ROGER BROWN (b. 1941-1997)

Acid Rain

oil on canvas

48 x 72 x 2 in.

121.92 x 182.88 x 5.08 cm

1984

45279

PROVENANCE:

Phyllis Kind Gallery, Chicago, 1984

Douglas Kenyon Gallery (Douglas Kenyon Personal Collection)

Karen Lennox Gallery, Chicago, 1990

Janet Fleisher Gallery, Philadelphia, 1990

Private Collection, United States

Sam Parker Gallery, Los Angeles from a gallery representing the above

Karen Lennox Gallery, Chicago, 2019

Private Collection, Illinois

Karen Lennox Gallery, Chicago

Private Collection, acquired from the above

EXHIBITION:

Likely at PKG Chicago in 1984

West Palm Beach, Florida, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, *Discovering Creativity: American Art Masters*, January 10 - March 17, 2024

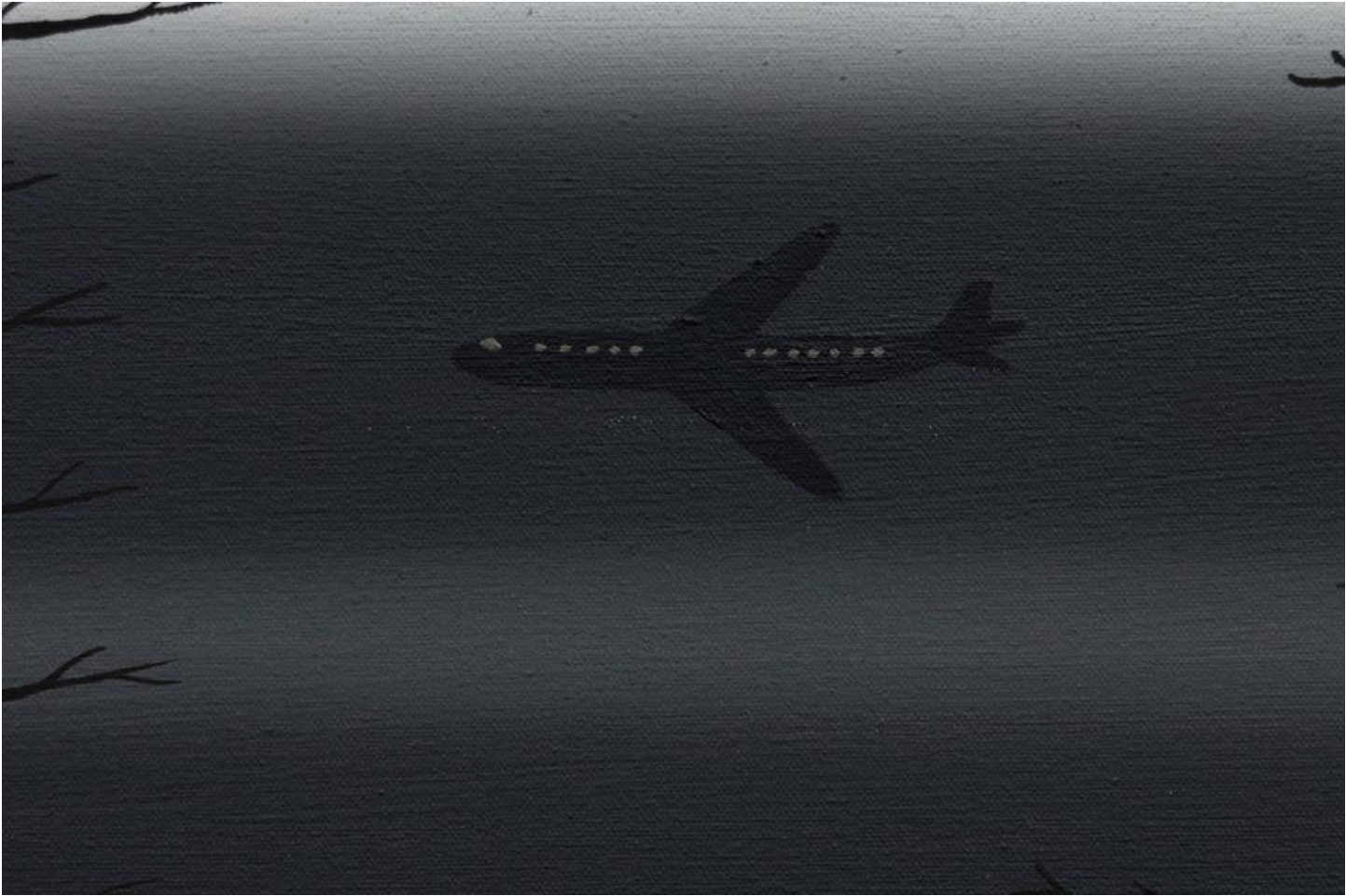
Roger Brown is known for his personal and often fantastical imagery and highly stylized paintings with figures and objects that reflect his interest in everyday experiences. *Acid Rain* explores themes of modern life and social commentary that reflect the role of the artist in society and the potential of art to instigate change. On a more personal level, the theme of acid rain may symbolize corrosive emotional or psychological states, such as depression, anxiety, or the feeling of being overwhelmed by circumstances beyond one's control. Just as acid rain was a largely unseen but devastating environmental problem, the crisis of the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic likely motivated Brown to create the work to process personal grief, critique the inadequate response from political leaders, and advocate for compassion, understanding, and medical research.

Roger Brown was an American painter and leading figure of the Chicago Imagist school alongside Barbara Rossi, Jim Nutt, Ed Paschke, and others. Known for his simply composed, vivid paintings featuring bold, often political subject matter, Brown rejected the trends of Minimalism and Conceptualism prevalent in his time. His work instead bears the influence of American Southern culture, especially folk art, machine-age design, and early comic strips. "I try to paint the things that everybody sees, things that are just a part of everybody's experience of life. Then I suppose it goes through a kind of personal transformation," he observed, "but that is different from being totally involved with one's own internalized fantasies." Born on December 10, 1941 in Hamilton, AL, Brown initially studied to be a preacher at the religious David Lipscomb College in Nashville, but ultimately committed himself to visual arts and received both his BFA and MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Today, his can be

found in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and the Art Institute of Chicago, among others. The artist died on November 22, 1997 in Atlanta, GA after a long battle with HIV and AIDS.

(artnet.com)

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ACID RAIN

