

RICHARD ANUSZKIEWICZ (b.1930) Blueing

RA 284

Signed verso, "Richard Anuszkiewicz 1970" acrylic on canvas 48 x 96 in. (49 1/4 x 97 1/4 x 1 1/2 in.) 121.92 x 243.84 cm (125.1 x 247.02 x 3.81 cm) 1970

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PROVENANCE:

Sidney Janis Gallery, New York Private Collection, California

EXHIBITION:

New York, New York, Sidney Janis Gallery, *New Paintings by Richard Anuszkiewicz*, February 10 - March 6, 1971

Ridgefield, Connecticut, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, *Highlights of the 1970-1971 Art Season*, June 27 - September 19, 1971

Jacksonville, Florida, Jacksonville Art Museum, *Anuszkiewicz*, March 2 - March 26, 1972

Trenton, New Jersey, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, *Curator's Choice*, February 1973 - March 1974

LITERATURE:

David Madden & Nicholas Spike, *Anuszkiewicz Paintings and Sculpture 1945-2001*, Centro Di, Firenze, IT, 2010, no. 1970.4, p. 163

Richard Anuszkiewicz was among the originators of Op art, a style of painting concerned with visual sensation and the effect of optical illusion.

Anuszkiewicz studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art (1948–53), the Yale University School of Art and Architecture (1953–55), and Kent State University (B.S. in education, 1956). In 1967 he was artist in residence at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., and later taught at the University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, and Kent State University.

Anuszkiewicz' canvases depict tight geometric shapes in vivid colours that seem to shift under the eye. His "All Things Live in the Three" (1963) has three orange diamonds with green dots on a background of red with blue dots and with red patterns in the orange diamonds.

When Anuszkiewicz's Centered Squares were first shown in 1979, veteran critic John Gruen used his review in ARTnews to place the new works in context: 'Of the American artists who rose to prominence during the Op art movement of the early 1960s, Anuszkiewicz is perhaps the only one to have held fast to his vision,' adding, 'In

England, Bridget Riley has also done so.'3 Still ahead were the Temples and Translumina — two major series of the artist's maturity, in which the color auras evoke a shimmering spirituality.

Anuszkiewicz belongs to the small number of great artists who construct their life's work with all the hallmarks of a series: lucidity, progress, and, above all, depth. Like his mentor Josef Albers, like Piet Mondrian — like Giorgio Morandi, just to name a representational painter — Anuszkiewicz focuses his vision on the limitless possibilities of a single theme. In his case, the theme is not a single motif, but an insistence on color.

Museum Collections Include:

Art Institute of Chicago Dallas Museum of Art. Texas Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, New York City National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C. Tate Gallery, London, UK Akron Art Museum, Ohio Canton Museum of Art. Ohio Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C. Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri Missoula Art Museum, Montana Museum of the National Academy of Design, New York City North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma Orlando Museum of Art, Florida Philadelphia Museum of Art Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art San Diego Museum of Art, California Wichita Art Museum, Kansas

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