

MICHAEL GOLDBERG (1924-2007)

Landscape

(On the way to New Lisbon, NY)

Signed verso, "goldberg, '64', 'Landscape', (on the way to New Lisbon, N.Y.)" oil and paper collage on canvas 64 x 68 in. (66 1/8 x 70 1/8 x 2 in.) 1964

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PROVENANCE:

Martha Jackson Gallery, New York Private Collection, NY, acquired from the above circa 1964 Sotheby's, New York, 12 September 2007, lot 455 Private Collection, acquired from the above auction

Michael Goldberg (1924-2007) began his artistic training at the Art Students League in New York (1938) and attended Hans Hofmann's School of Art (1941-1942) before interrupting his studies to serve as a paratrooper in the United States Army in North Africa, China, Burma, and India. After World War II, Goldberg resumed his classes with Hofmann. He became involved in the avant-garde New York art scene, meeting Franz Kline, Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, and Milton Resnick among others. In 1951, Goldberg, under the name Michael Stuart, showed his paintings in the "Ninth Street Show," arguably the first comprehensive display of Abstract Expressionist work. The following year he moved to 28 East 2nd Street and joined the artists' "Club" on Eighth Street, gathering with other Abstract Expressionist painters to exchange artistic ideas. Around this time, he met the poet Frank O'Hara, who became a life-long friend and dedicated many poems to Goldberg. In addition, they collaborated on a project titled "Odes" in 1960. Goldberg maintained his connection with the Abstract Expressionist painters throughout the fifties and into the sixties. By 1953, he was a regular at Cedar Bar, known as a meeting place for avant-garde artists.

A second generation Abstract Expressionist artist, Michael Goldberg's painting defies classification, having undergone numerous changes throughout his long and prolific career. He has painted dynamic, gestural canvases; monochromatic, minimalist works; grids; calligraphic images; patterned or striped paintings, and he has experimented with collage. Continuing to employ the spontaneous brushwork that first generation Abstract Expressionists such as Willem de Kooning and Jackson Pollock prized as a direct channel to emotional content, younger artists such Goldberg, Milton Resnick, Grace Hartigan Joan Mitchell, and Larry Rivers, adopted a somewhat irreverent approach to Abstract Expressionist painting.

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