



SAM FRANCIS (1923-1994)

Untitled (Black and White Composition)

Signed verso, "Sam Francis 1988"

acrylic on paper

23 3/4 x 17 3/4 in. (30 3/4 x 24 1/2 x 1 3/4 in.)

1988

5116.c

PROVENANCE:

Private Collection, California

Heather James Fine Art, California

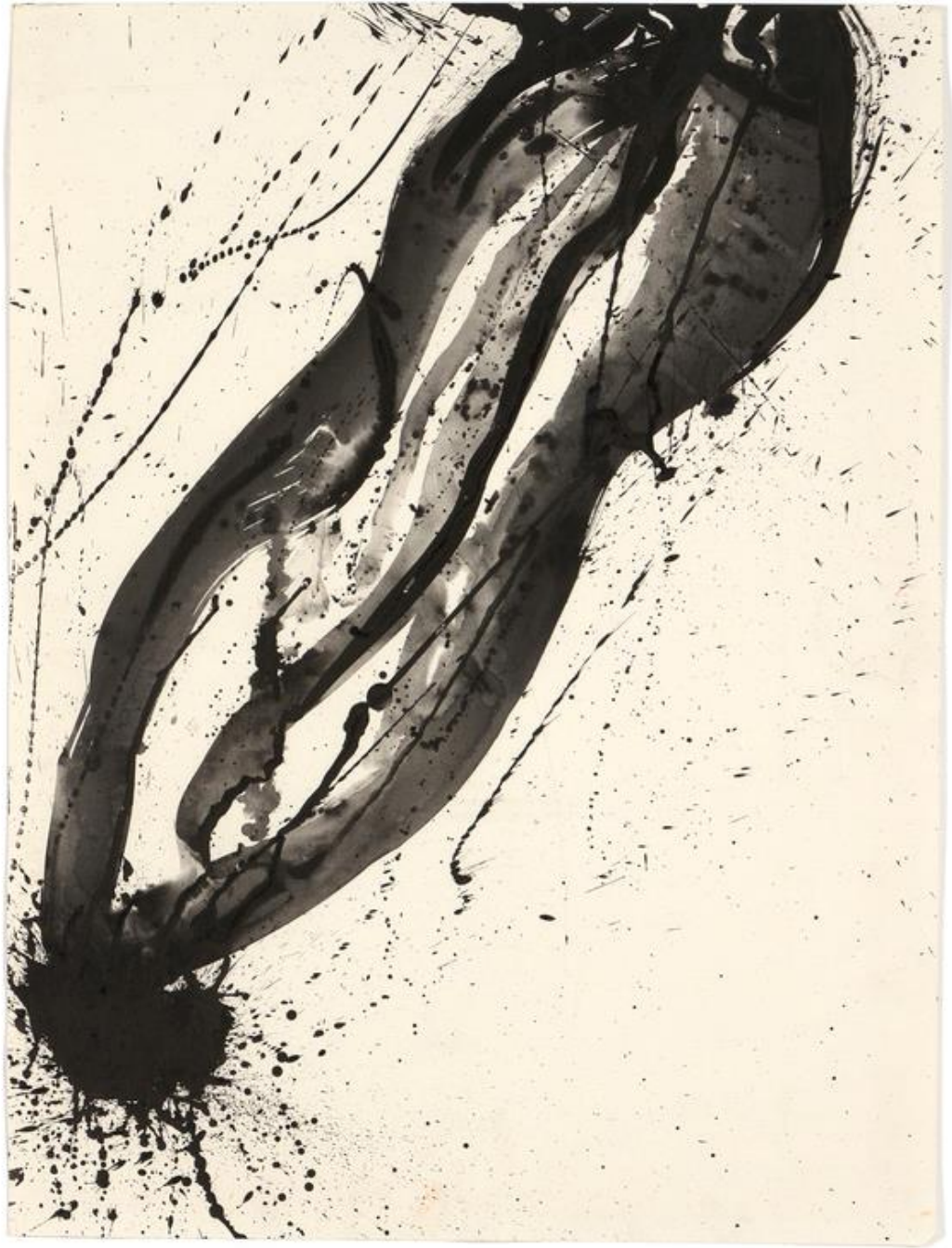
Private Collection, California

Sam Francis (1923-1994) was born in San Mateo, California, and studied botany, medicine and psychology at the University of California, Berkeley. He served in the United States Air Force during World War II before being injured in a plane crash. He was in the hospital for several years with spinal tuberculosis, and it was while there that he began to paint. Once out of the hospital he returned to Berkeley, this time to study art.

Francis was initially influenced by the work of Abstract Expressionists such as Mark Rothko, Arshile Gorky and Clyfford Still. He spent the 1950s in Paris, having his first exhibition there in 1952. While there he became associated with Tachisme. He later spent time in Japan, and some have seen an influence from Zen Buddhism in his work. Francis spent some time in Paris executing entirely monochromatic works, but his mature pieces are generally large oil paintings with splashed or splattered areas of bright contrasting color. Areas of white canvas are often left to show through, and in later works, paint is sometimes confined to the edges of the canvas.

Luminous and painterly, rather than gestural, his "signature" paintings of the early 1950s are overlays of serial but asymmetrical biomorphic forms saturated with color. The mid 50s saw Francis include fields of various sized clusters of cell-like shapes usually in blue, yellow, and red on a white ground. Francis returned to California during the 1960s and continued painting in Los Angeles. During the final three decades of his career his style of large scale bright Abstract Expressionism was also closely associated with Color Field painting.

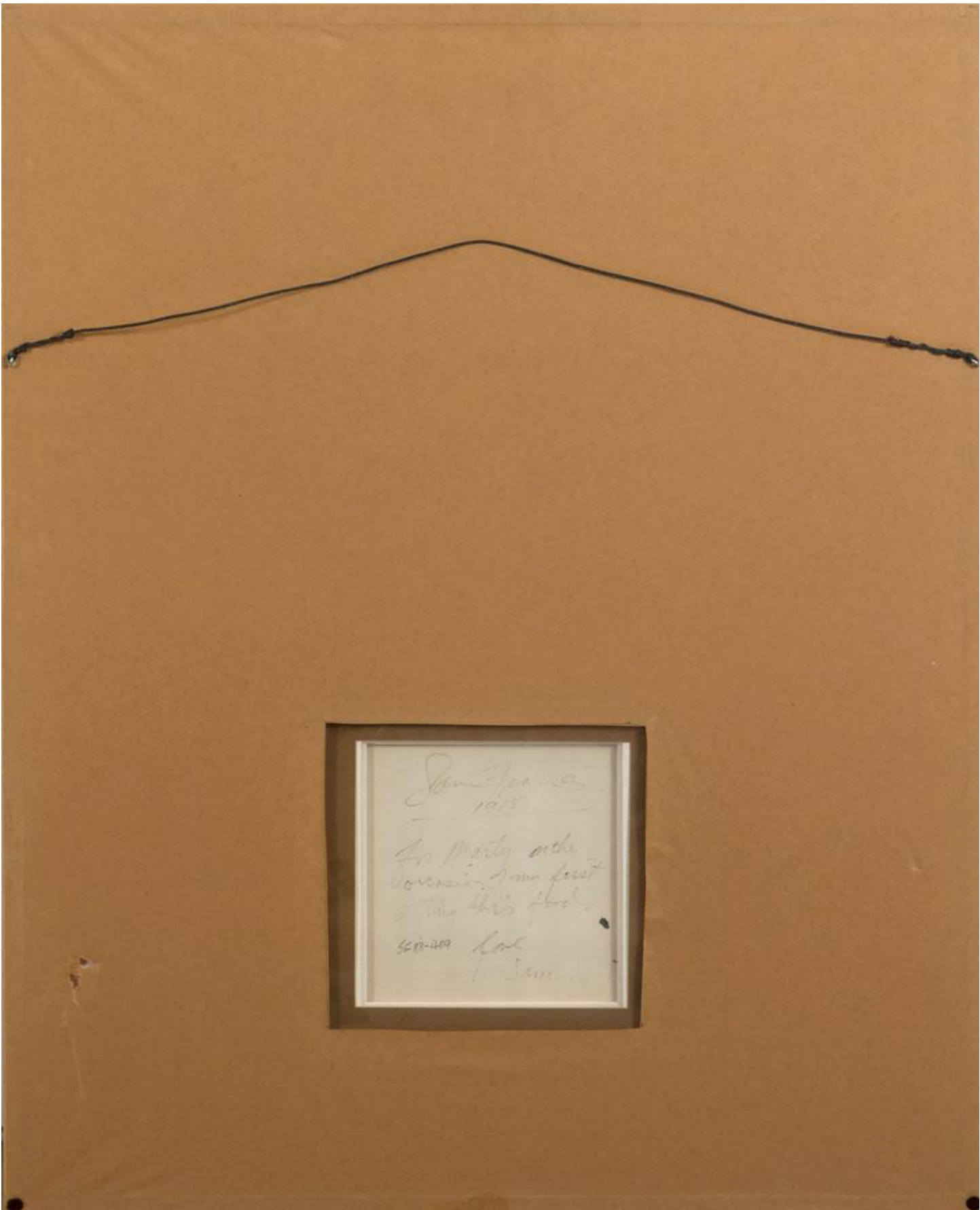
The information and material herein represents Gallery's best efforts and understanding of the current history and scholarship with respect to the provenance of the Work(s) of Art described and is not part of any warranty.











San Francisco
1955

In Martin's and
Lorenz's 5 mo first
of the 4th floor

500-200 Col
1-1-55

San Francisco
1988

For Marty on the
occasion of my first
eating this food.

SF 88-459

Love

Sam

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REVISED
“CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION”

August 8, 2011

Martin Sosin
211 California Ave. #401
Santa Monica, CA 90403

The administrative offices for the Sam Francis Foundation (aka Samuel L. Francis Art Museum, Inc., Samuel L. Francis Foundation, Sam Francis Estate) have documented the following artwork by the artist, SAM FRANCIS (1923–1994) in the artist’s records and the catalogue raisonné documentation research with the Sam Francis archival identification number of:

SF88-459



TITLE/DATE: *UNTITLED (Black and White Composition), 1988* (SF88-459)
MEDIUM/SUPPORT: Acrylic on paper
DIMENSIONS: 23 ¾ x 17 ¾ inches (58.42 x 43.18 cm)
INSCRIPTIONS: Signed in cursive, with date and dedication by the artist on verso: “Sam Francis 1988 for Marty on the occasion of my first eating this food love Sam.”
Also annotated on verso (by unknown inscriber) with the Litho Shop identification number: SF88-459.
PROVENANCE: Acquired directly from the artist by the present owner
SOLO EXHIBITIONS: College of the Canyons Art Gallery, Santa Clarita, California. “Sam Francis,” 17 February–14 March 2009.

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