

GAGOSIAN

Gagosian Beverly Hills to Present Works from Cy Twombly's Final Decade

Opening September 15, 2022



Cy Twombly, *Untitled*, 2007, acrylic and pencil on wood panel, in artist's frame, 104 3/4 × 79 × 2 1/2 inches (266.1 × 200.7 × 6.3 cm) © Cy Twombly Foundation

BEVERLY HILLS, August 9, 2022—Gagosian is pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and works on paper by Cy Twombly, organized in association with the Cy Twombly Foundation. Marking the first appearance of the artist's work at the Beverly Hills gallery since *Cy Twombly: The Last Paintings* in 2012, it gathers art produced in the final decade of Twombly's life.

Gagosian's exhibition coincides with *Cy Twombly: Making Past Present*, at the J. Paul Getty Museum from August 2 through October 30, 2022. The first institutional presentation in Los Angeles dedicated to the artist in nearly three decades, *Making Past Present* explores Twombly's engagement with the art, culture, and history of the ancient Mediterranean, and will travel to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in 2023.

Working in Gaeta, Italy, and Lexington, Virginia, Twombly returned to painting at a large scale in the 2000s. The shift followed his 1994 retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the critical success of *Lepanto*, a suite of twelve paintings first shown at the 49th Biennale di Venezia in 2001. In these works, he adopted a new approach to color with palettes of lush, saturated hues. Slender lines and loops of paint balance expressive dynamism and elegance, while denser strokes evoke the petals of peonies and chrysanthemums. The paintings are imbued with the uninhibited spirit of Bacchanalia and the vivacity of fresh blossoms; at once vital and elegiac, they meditate on poetry, history, and myth.

One highlight is a set of six panels composed with verdant greens and luminous white, *Untitled I–VI (Green Painting)* (2002–03), which was presented only once before as part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s 2016 exhibition *Unfinished: Thoughts Made Visible*. Also included are Twombly’s works on paper, which blur the distinctions between painting, drawing, and writing, and his sculptures, which extend his concerns with geometry, gesture, and materiality into three dimensions. Assembled from plaster, wood, and scraps found in his studio, these objects suggest fragments of the monumental architectonic and sculptural forms of ancient Egypt, Rome, and Greece. Twombly often painted the sculptures white or cast them in bronze, unifying their disparate forms while retaining the tactility of their surfaces.

A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition, with a conversation on Twombly between artists Tacita Dean and Julie Mehretu.

Cy Twombly was born in 1928 in Lexington, Virginia, and died in 2011 in Rome. Collections include the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Menil Collection, Houston; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum Brandhorst, Munich; Tate, London; and Louvre Abu Dhabi. Exhibitions include *Cycles and Seasons*, Tate Modern, London (2008, traveled to Guggenheim Bilbao, Spain, 2008–09; and Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome, 2009); *The Natural World*, Art Institute of Chicago (2009); *Sensations of the Moment*, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna (2009); *Paradise*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2014, traveled to Ca’ Pesaro, Venice, 2015); *Treatise on the Veil*, Morgan Library and Museum, New York (2014–15); and Centre Pompidou, Paris (2016–17). Twombly received numerous accolades during his lifetime, including the Praemium Imperiale from the Japan Art Association, Tokyo (1996), and the Golden Lion award at the 49th Biennale di Venezia (2001). In 2010, Twombly’s permanent site-specific painting *Ceiling* was unveiled in the Salle des Bronzes at the Musée du Louvre; on that occasion he was named Chevalier of the Légion d’honneur by the French government.

#CyTwombly

CY TWOMBLY

Opening reception: Thursday, September 15, 6–8pm

September 15–December 17, 2022

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