

MEREDITH WARD FINE ART

For Immediate Release

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Meredith Ward Fine Art

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STEVE WHEELER: THE MEMORY OF PAINTING

November 11 – December 23, 2016



Steve Wheeler (1912-1992)
Untitled ("Laughing Boy Rolling"), c. 1960s
Oil and ink on canvas
30 x 30 inches

"Every line is a personality weaving itself into the memory of painting." – Steve Wheeler

An exhibition of 9 oil paintings and 12 works on paper by **Steve Wheeler (1912-1992)** will be on view at Meredith Ward Fine Art from November 11 – December 23, 2016. The exhibition marks the gallery's exclusive representation of the artist's estate. "Wheeler's paintings broaden our understanding of the art that was being created in New York City at mid-century," said Meredith Ward, President of the gallery. "The works in this show reveal an alternative American art history that is still coming to light."

This inaugural exhibition with the Wheeler estate focuses on the artist's line paintings from the 1950s and 1960s, many of which have never been exhibited before. Wheeler's canvases parallel the work of other artists of the period like Stuart Davis and Richard Pousette-Dart, who expanded and intensified their explorations of form and space by limiting or eliminating color in their compositions. The purity of these works exposes and amplifies their underlying structure.

(more)

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Steve Wheeler (1912-1992)
Untitled, c. 1960s
Oil and ink on canvas
27 x 30 inches

Wheeler wrote: “If the spectator is curious and adventurous, each little detail will be full of wonder and revelation giving him the sensuous material to coordinate his judgments.”

Wheeler’s paintings map out stories that are unbound by time and space, and his titles often suggest engaging and enigmatic narratives like, *Good Morning*, *Cézanne* or *Ticket Please*. He explained, “The form given to meaning ... is a code message of experience. As a result, the image constantly transforms itself, creating the autobiography of an event that is alive.” As the eye travels over the painting’s surface, it is up to the viewer to discover Wheeler’s meaning. It is an exploration that is rewarded with surprise and sudden recognition.

The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated brochure.

About the Gallery

Meredith Ward Fine Art opened in 2004 specializing in American art from the 19th century to the present. The gallery is the exclusive representative of the estates of John Marin, Flora Crockett, Larry Day, and Steve Wheeler. Meredith Ward Fine Art is located at 44 East 74th Street in New York City and is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 10am to 5:30pm and Saturday noon to 5pm. For more information or images, contact Julia Wilcox at 212-744-7306.

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