

The Museum of Modern Art

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS - SEVEN AMERICAN PAINTINGS

A new gallery in The Museum of Modern Art designated for continuous showings of recent acquisitions will hold an exhibition of seven American paintings beginning November 5. This is the second in the series which was inaugurated with a show of recently acquired paintings by South Asian artists when the Museum opened in May.

These small shows, a new procedure for the Museum, are intended to supplement the larger report of acquisitions presented in an annual exhibition. While these larger shows by necessity emphasize diversity, the smaller series will concentrate on particular and limited aspects of the collections.

The new gallery is located on the ground floor between the Main Hall and the East Wing. The exhibition, selected by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of Collections, consists of two paintings by Morris Louis, Untitled (1959) and Third Element (1962); Cleopatra Flesh (1962) by Jules Olitski; Night on Cold Mountain (1962) by Larry Poons; West 23rd (1963) by Jack Tworkov; Phenomena Junction Red (1963) and Phenomena Yellow Strike (1963-64), both by Paul Jenkins.

The seven American paintings in this exhibition of recent acquisitions are all abstract and all painted within the past five years.

Of the five artists represented, Jack Tworkov is the oldest. One of the senior masters of American abstract expressionism, his work now seems almost traditional but is entirely devoid of any academic feeling.

Jenkins and Olitski were born in the early 1920s and both were influenced in various ways by abstract expressionism but their art is characteristic of one of the freshest and most original directions in abstract painting of the mid-1960s.

The death of Morris Louis two years ago cut short the career of a greatly talented painter whose work was just beginning to win recognition thanks to the critic Clement Greenberg. The larger of the Museum's two paintings (bought out of the memorable show at the Guggenheim Museum) represents Louis' style of the late

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1950s in an untitled work of sombre grandeur and mystery; the brilliant Third Element was painted in 1962, the year of the artist's death.

Much the youngest of the five artists is Larry Poons, who paints coin-sized discs on a grid of squares. The discs are distributed according to an occult system related to musical form and, thanks to optical reflex, they seem suspended in evocative constellations.

The exhibition will remain on view through the end of the year.

Photographs and annotated checklist available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director,
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New York, N.Y. 10019. CI 5-8900.