

FIAC Program 2010 - Grand Palais - Booth C39

Homage to Mark Tobey

For the 120th anniversary of his birth and in concert with historic and contemporary artists of the gallery

For the 2010 edition of the FIAC, the Galerie Jeanne Bucher - Jaeger Bucher will present significant selected works by American artist Mark Tobey (1890-1976) to celebrate the 120th anniversary of his birth. Mark Tobey joined the gallery in 1944, exhibiting on many occasions until his death in 1976.

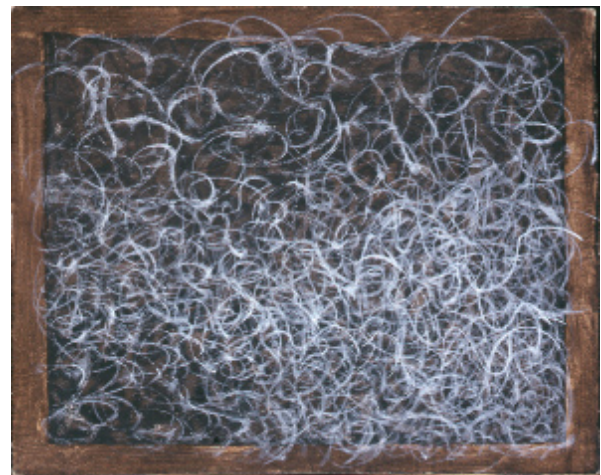
Mark Tobey is a world renowned pioneer of American Abstraction; his work eludes all categorisation but rather seeks keys and signs in painting that both represent and signify. He endeavoured to reveal the profound structure in things, and as a great explorer he enjoyed being Between Worlds, only too aware that the enclosed conventional world of art and its pseudo traditions was an obstacle to human fulfilment.

After travelling through Europe and the Middle East where he studied Arab and Persian penmanship, he left for China to study Chinese calligraphy with master Teng Kuei, and also Zen meditation. **The chemistry of these different visual cultures as well as his exploration of various art techniques**—sumi,

tempera, printmaking, calligraphy—led to his **white writing, inspired by ancient Arab calligraphy:** overlaying an abstract field, a web is formed of white or pale coloured calligraphic symbols, often made up of thousands of interlaced brushstrokes. This essential feature of his work gave rise to the all-over style of painting that was such a decisive influence on Jackson Pollock. Mark Tobey was a practitioner of meditation and as such was concerned to find a way of **expressing a vision of spiritual reality:** the luminosity, complexity and ethereal nature of his paintings together transport the spectator towards a dialogue between the visible and the invisible, space and time, in a moving quest for a transcendental truth that supersedes appearances, going beyond them in order to approach the essence of things. His characteristic white writing creates a network of interconnections within his work revealing what is infinitely perceptible—views that, according to Tobey, were from “above the Earth”, prophetically anticipating the famous shots of the Earth in all its unity taken by astronauts ten years later. Tobey firmly believed that people would gradually understand the world’s unity, asserting that **“science and religion are the two great powers that must be balanced if Man is to become mature”**.

Mark Tobey’s work has received worldwide acclaim and is celebrated internationally by the most prestigious museums, art critics and collectors. He was aware of art’s mystical worth, projecting an active space—a space in which pigments and variations in colour made up of marks or transported by fine lines interpenetrate and fuse forming an intensely vibrating visual energy. As John Cage wrote: **“His paintings exist to introduce us daily to an appreciation of the world we live in”**.

Alongside the homage paid to Mark Tobey’s immense talent, an open dialogue will engage with works by other artists from the gallery whether figures from the past who knew him well (Bissière, Vieira da Silva, Dubuffet...) or other more contemporary figures who today bear witness to their profound respect for his work (Yang Jiechang, Hanns Schimansky, Susumu Shingu, Fabienne Verdier, Paul Wallach...). Together they will show the strength of his vision dating back more than 50 years.



Untitled, 1690 - 1962
Tempera on paper - 13,2 x 16,5 cm
Courtesy Galerie Jeanne Bucher - Jaeger Bucher



From October 21st to 24th 2010, Grand Palais, from noon to 8 pm and Cour Carrée du Louvre, from noon to 9 pm
By invitation only : Preview Cour Carrée du Louvre on Tuesday 19th October, from 4 pm to 8:30 pm.
Vernissage: Wednesday October 20th, from 5 pm to 10 pm. Professional afternoon on Wednesday October 20th from 3 to 5 pm.