

JACK RUTBERG FINE ARTS

357 N. La Brea Avenue · Los Angeles, CA 90036 · Tel (323) 938-5222 · www.jackrutbergfinearts.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: MARK TOBEY

May 16 - June 28, 2003 (Opening reception May 16, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.)

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Works by one of the most pivotal and significant 20th century American painters, **Mark Tobey** will be featured in an exhibition at **Jack Rutberg Fine Arts** from May 16 to June 28.

Although generally categorized with the New York Abstract Expressionism, Mark Tobey stands uniquely apart from and is seen as a precursor to this movement. His works stem from a highly personal and spiritual stream of expression, which greatly impacted Abstract Expressionism.

Tobey, who converted to the Bahá'í faith, was a master of combining both Eastern and Western sensibilities in his work. Already fascinated with eastern philosophy, Tobey traveled to the Far East in 1934 and spent a month in a Zen monastery in Kyoto, Japan, where he studied calligraphy and painting, wrote poetry, and meditated. Back from his travels around 1935, Tobey developed his unique "white writing" style, inspired by his calligraphic studies in the East, which anticipated Jackson Pollack's "all-over" paintings. For Tobey, the calligraphic line was not used to create boundaries but to establish paths of meditation and introspection. In the exhibition, Tobey's unique paintings and graphic works illustrate this notion as their scale forces the viewer to intimately engage these works.

This Mark Tobey exhibition at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts features works from Burkhardt's estate. Hans Burkhardt, the Swiss-born Los Angeles painter who was a close friend and supporter of Tobey's, established a formidable collection of Tobey's works that has been the subject of several museum exhibitions.

Today, Mark Tobey continues to command international attention. While his works first came to international prominence at the Venice Biennials of 1948, 1956 and 1958, Tobey's work has continued to be surveyed in major retrospective exhibitions by such major museums as Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris (Palais du Louvre); Museum of Modern Art, New York; Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco; National Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Whitney Museum, New York, and most recently at Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Germany, and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid, Spain.

MARK TOBEY opens May 16, with an opening reception from 7:00 until 9:30 p.m at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, located at 357 N. La Brea Avenue in Los Angeles. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information phone (323) 938-5222.

Images for press available upon request