

JACK RUTBERG FINE ARTS

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

February 7 – May 30, 2009

Celebrating Two Los Angeles Artists

Ruth Weisberg - Selected Works

Paintings and Works on Paper

Also Exhibiting

Hans Burkhardt: Paintings of the 1960s - Part II

Los Angeles, CA - Celebrated L.A. contemporary artist Ruth Weisberg is the subject of a new exhibition, "**Ruth Weisberg - Selected Works,**" opening with a reception for the artist from 5 to 8 PM. on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, located at 357 North La Brea Avenue in Los Angeles. The exhibition extends through April 18, 2009.

Ruth Weisberg has garnered an extraordinary roster of honors and prizes. She is currently the subject of a solo exhibition at the Norton Simon Museum; the museum's first-ever solo exhibition of a contemporary painter extends through March 2. A similar distinction was afforded Weisberg by the Huntington Library and Art Collections in San Marino in 1999-2000, which invited the artist to create a body of work inspired by a work on paper in its collection. Weisberg's response to William Blake's engravings for *Dante's Inferno* represented the first solo exhibition by a contemporary painter at the Huntington.

On February 27, as part of the College Art Association Conference (the nation's largest and most distinguished collective of art historians, artists and educators) held this year in Los Angeles, Weisberg will one of two artists featured in the annual "Distinguished Artist Series." (The other artist selected this year is Robert Irwin) In conjunction with the CAA conference, the Women's Caucus for Art will award Weisberg this year's Lifetime Achievement award on Feb. 28.

The Rutberg Gallery exhibition "**Ruth Weisberg - Selected Works**" features paintings and works on paper spanning several decades that reveal Weisberg's unique vision through which the viewer sees the convergence of art history, personal memory, and cultural experience. This impression of multi-layered moments in time is often enhanced to striking effect by Weisberg's innovative use of fresco-like qualities in her paintings and works on paper. In her large-scale painting, *Time and Time Again*, for example, Weisberg has re-imagined Titian's masterpiece, *Amor Sacro e Profano*; the landscape is the stage for two tango partners passionately engaged in their dance and each other - a mysterious collision of old and new worlds. Other works explore universal themes of childhood, maternity, spirituality, and personal memory as evocatively filtered through the lens of time.

Ruth Weisberg is Dean of University of Southern California's Roski School of Fine Arts, and is a former Fulbright scholar, past President of the College Art Association and honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Hebrew Union College. In addition to her many distinctions and achievements,

Weisberg's works have been the subject of more than 70 solo and 160 group exhibitions. Her work is in the permanent collections of more than sixty major museums and universities internationally, including the Whitney and Metropolitan Museums in New York, the National Gallery, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Instituto Nazionale per La Grafica, Italy, and the Biblioteque Nationale of France.

Hans Burkhardt: Paintings of the 1960s, Part II

Concurrent with the Ruth Weisberg exhibition, Jack Rutberg Gallery will present "**Hans Burkhardt: Paintings of the 1960s, Part II.**" This installation presents, in edited form, the critically-acclaimed exhibition "**Hans Burkhardt: Paintings from the 1960's,**" cited as one of the "Top Shows of 2008" of L.A. museums and galleries by LA Weekly.

Although reduced in format, this powerful survey from the decade of revolution includes paintings of monumental scale, cited by some historians as ranking among the most important paintings on the subject of war in all of modern art. The exhibition includes as its centerpiece *My Lai* of 1968; a monumental painting employing real human skulls, about which critic Donald Kuspit stated that "*Burkhardt is a master – indeed, the inventor – of the abstract memento mori.*" In reviewing this exhibition in its original version, Christopher Miles cited this as one of the major exhibitions of 2008, declaring: "*viewing this museum-worthy exhibition, as well as examining the broader range of Burkhardt's six decade oeuvre, one sees little room for doubt as to the need to reconsider Burkhardt's place locally and internationally...*" Peter Selz writes: "*Hans Burkhardt, a major voice of modernist American art . . . is a master of abstract painting.*"

Hans Burkhardt was born in Basel, Switzerland in 1904. He immigrated to New York in 1924, where he shared Arshile Gorky's studio between the years 1928 and 1937. When he moved to Los Angeles in 1937, Burkhardt represented the most significant bridge between New York and Los Angeles, in that his paintings of the 1930s are part of the genesis of American Abstract Expressionism. In Los Angeles, Burkhardt created an extraordinary body of work that elicited Kuspit's declaration: "*I knew it had to exist in American painting, and here it is.*"

In 1992, two years before his death, Burkhardt was honored for his lifetime achievement by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. The Burkhardt exhibition is accompanied by an 88-page publication with 77 color illustrations.

The Ruth Weisberg and Hans Burkhardt exhibitions offer an opportunity to view two important Los Angeles artists who had great artistic admiration for one another.

"Ruth Weisberg - Selected Works" & "Hans Burkhardt: Paintings of the 1960s, Part II" opens February 7 and extends through May 30 at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts located at 357 N. La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90036. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information phone (323) 938-5222.

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images available upon request