

# EYKYN • MACLEAN

## Eykyn Maclean New York presents *Cy Twombly: Works from the Sonnabend Collection*

April 6<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Eykyn Maclean, New York

Eykyn Maclean specializes in museum caliber work by key Impressionist and 20th century European and American artists. Christopher Eykyn and Nicholas Maclean established Eykyn Maclean in 2006, after a combined 29 years of experience at Christie's where they were co-heads of the Impressionist and Modern Art department.

*Cy Twombly: Works from the Sonnabend Collection* demonstrates the gallery's continuing commitment to a program of international scholarly loan exhibitions in addition to commercial exhibitions. "As private dealers the majority of our work is conducted discreetly. However, our galleries in New York and London enable us to bring together important works, such as these, for public exhibition," says Nicholas Maclean.

The New York gallery space launched in 2010 with the critically acclaimed show *Inside Giacometti's Studio – An Intimate Portrait* (2010) which was followed by *Matisse and the Model* (2011). Eykyn Maclean opened their new London gallery space in Mayfair in February 2012.

### The exhibition

*Cy Twombly: Works from the Sonnabend Collection* brings together all eleven works by the artist from the collection of legendary gallerist and collector Ileana Sonnabend. The show is a rare opportunity to view works from several important stages in the artist's life, including many which have never before been publicly exhibited. The connection between Twombly and Sonnabend came through mutual friendships with Robert Rauschenberg.

"It is an honor to show work by one of the twentieth-century's most original artists as seen through the discerning eye of one of the century's most forward-thinking dealers and collectors," says Kristy Bryce, gallery Director and the show's curator, "in effect the curator of this show is Sonnabend herself."

Twombly (1928 –2011) drew upon ideas expressed in poetry, literature and classical mythology. Full of surface complexity and whirlwinds of tiny detail, his works convey an intense physicality and a real sense of the artist at work.

*Untitled (New York City)*, (1956) is the earliest work in the exhibition. Vigorous gestures are built up layer upon layer, the surface revealing the strata of scrawls partially buried beneath each successive mark, resulting in a painting that is at once archaeology and abstraction.

Another five works from 1959 to 1962 continue to blur the line between painting and writing, with symbols, scribbles, and words occupying the same energized field. With references to cultural figures such as Vivaldi, mythological tales like the Triumph of Galatea, and geographical names such as Roma and Sperlonga, Twombly's work from this period is rich with narrative evocations.

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A key work in the show is *Untitled* (1969), a gouache and wax crayon on paper. Reminiscent of a blackboard, it is part of a series of works from the late 1960's that comprise Twombly's signature 'gray paintings'.

The two works in the show from the 1970s - *Untitled* (1975) and *Untitled* (1975) - signal a new direction in his work, with the use of large-scale gestures in bold, vibrant colors, that he would go on to explore throughout the rest of his working life.

A fully-illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition with essays by Annie Cohen-Solal, academic and author of the recent biography of dealer Leo Castelli, and James Lawrence, a critic and historian of postwar and contemporary art and frequent contributor to Burlington Magazine.

## Notes to editors

### Key Information

**Exhibition:** Cy Twombly: Works from the Sonnabend Collection

**Location:** Eykyn Maclean, 23 East 67th Street, 2nd Floor

**Telephone:** +1 212.772.9425

**Web Address:** [www.eykynmaclean.com](http://www.eykynmaclean.com)

**New York dates:** April 6<sup>th</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Hours:** Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm

### Ileana Sonnabend (1914-2007)

Ileana Sonnabend looms large as one of the late twentieth century's most influential dealers and collectors. Her vast art collection was built up over half a decade of collecting and she operated at the cutting edge of contemporary art with artists such as Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, James Rosenquist and Claes Oldenburg. Sonnabend famously requested a Matisse instead of an engagement ring from her first husband Leo Castelli with whom she maintained a close alliance. She had an eye for progressive work, showing performances such as Vito Acconci's *Seedbed* and Gilbert and George's *Underneath the Arches*. Through her galleries - Sonnabend Gallery in New York and Galerie Ileana Sonnabend in Paris - she brought postwar American art to Europe in the 1960's, and later brought Americans up to speed with developments abroad.

### Media and image enquiries:

Chloe Kinsman or Aimee George at JB Pelham PR

Tel: +44 (0) 208 969 3959

Email: [chloe@jbpelhampr.com](mailto:chloe@jbpelhampr.com) / [aimee@jbpelhampr.com](mailto:aimee@jbpelhampr.com)