

STUDIO 18
GALLERY

18 Warren Street, New York, NY 10007 212 385-6734

Gallery hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 1 to 6 pm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four Artists Show: *Herman Cherry Jean Cohen Frances Heatherington
Shelley Himmelstein*

Exhibition dates November 10 - December 1, 2001

Opening Reception: November 10, 4-7 pm

Gallery Hours: Thursday - Saturday 1-6 pm

Herman Cherry

Herman Cherry was a significant member of the New York School of Abstract Expressionism. He was among the first generation of abstract painters to emerge after World War II as leaders of the international avant-garde. He had already met Jackson Pollock when he enrolled in Thomas Hart Benton's class at the Art Students League in New York. After the war he was an active member of the "Club", the intellectual center of the New York avant-garde art scene. Cherry's work is not exclusively expressionist. He was influenced by the Synchronist Stanton MacDonald Wright with whom he had studied in California. Like Mark Rothko, his contemporary, he subordinated the emotional expression of his brushwork to permit the resonance of color to create its own special impact. He wrote:

" Color in (the) abstract has its own orbital sun, where color becomes its own space - it might be called emotional space, where colors touch; disengage; part - to meet another engagement with another color and shape - a humanist abstraction. Color is its own life."

Herman Cherry's work has been exhibited widely, in a number of different galleries, over several decades, starting with a solo show in the Stanley Rose Gallery, in Hollywood, CA in 1942, and most recently with the Gary Snyder Gallery in New York. He taught and lectured widely in the U.S. and abroad; and has published numerous articles, reviews, as well as a book of poetry. He received a number of foundation grants and awards. His work is held in many museums and private collections.

The paintings shown here are by courtesy of the Gary Snyder Gallery, NYC, who is currently handling Herman Cherry's estate.

Jean Cohen

Jean Cohen studied at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, the Cooper Union Art School, in NYC, and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine.

She started exhibiting with the Peter Cooper Gallery in 1950 and has continued to exhibit in both solo and group shows in various galleries ever since. She was a founding member of the Landmark Gallery in Soho Her most recent show was with the Viridian

Gallery in 1999. She has taught and lectured widely. She has received a number of grants and prizes including the Gottlieb Grant in 1984. Her work is represented in a number of museums and university art collections, as well as many private collections. She has been a member of the American Abstract Artists Society since 1962, and is a member of the NY Artists Equity.

"My abstract paintings often symbolize (a) world of perception. I recognize an external symbolic world as well as an internal symbolic world. When my paintings resolve themselves in a more geometric way they are then more purely abstract... What I feel, what I anticipate, what I remember, who I am comes to the fore."

Frances Heatherington

Frances Heatherington studied at the Brooklyn Museum Art School from 1955 to 1958. She had her first solo show with the Gordon Gallery in 1962. Her work has since been exhibited in galleries in New York, Alabama, Connecticut, and Rome, Italy. Her most recent solo show was with the Studio 18 Gallery this past spring.

In a career that spanned more than 40 years her work evolved from abstract expressionism toward a geometrically ordered imagery, influenced in part by a close study of Islamic art. Early immersion in Latvian folk art also play a role in the evolution of her style. Two major themes appear, and at times interact, in her more recent work. One theme is the search for a mandala-like meditative focus or center. In the other, an abstract pointillist, or calligraphic motif, arranged in sequential horizontal bands, is employed to suggest a timeless flow of elemental sense perception. She wrote:

"My paintings are inspired by Islamic art. They are non-objective, and geometrical though not hard-edged. They are quiet and contemplative; the colors are muted; there is order."

Shelley Himmelstein

Ms. Himmelstein studied art at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY; at the Tyler School of Art, Rome, Italy; and at Hunter College, NYC, from which she received an MFA in painting in 1982. Over the years she has participated in many group, and two and three person shows, and has had several solo exhibitions. Her most recent exhibits were with the gallery *Il Tempo Ritrovato*, in Rome, and at the *Casina Pompeiana* in Naples, Italy, this past spring. She has received a number of grants and awards, including an Artist Residency with The Hedda Sterne Foundation.

The critic Natasha Kurchanova has written, "Shelley Himmelstein's art is an intimate exploration into painting in its purest aspects. It is concerned with the emotional impact of color, the plane of the canvas, and infinite variation in the arrangement of color masses on this plane... Like all good art, Shelley's work defies neat categorizations... It is neither figurative, nor abstract; neither sublime, nor pastoral... It is optical in its emphasis on color and overall composition, but it is also preoccupied with the physicality of paint..."