

For Art Basel Miami Beach 2025, Diane Rosenstein Gallery announces a solo presentation of paintings by Julian Stanczak (POL/USA, 1928-2017). Focusing on early masterworks from 1966-1977, our installation will center on Stanczak's "Martha Jackson Years" – a trajectory that begins with *Optical Paintings*, his NYC solo debut at Jackson's Upper East Side gallery in 1964; and continues with the color-based abstractions painted throughout the 1970s: a decisive decade in which he shifted to subtle and overlapping geometric motifs.

Recognized in the 1960s as a pioneer of Op Art, Julian Stanczak had quickly evolved by the Seventies into a virtuoso of color, light, and minimalism. Working with acrylics, he created meticulous and complex paintings that reveal his intuitive understanding of color and musical composition. In essence and outlook, they are emotional landscapes, an effort to transcend the surface containment of the painting as object and connect with the viewer in a perceptual way.

On view in the Survey Sector, Diane Rosenstein Gallery's debut with Art Basel Miami Beach will feature eleven paintings by Stanczak, a pivotal figure in post-war abstraction. *Unrestful Space* (1966), is a rare and classic black-and-white painting, consisting of black lines of varying widths meeting at diagonal angles. Creating a mirage of depth and movement, *Unrestful Space* subverts traditional notions of perspective and horizon. *Filtration, Warm* (1974-75), utilizes a grid pattern of white and grey squares over a pink field. This glowing and dynamic composition examines the visual exchange of energy and resonates with themes of the California Light and Space movement. "My new paintings are a group singled out as one particular preoccupation," writes the artist in 1975, "a strong response to the abstract, utmost simplicity, a sense of rhythm – tidal swellings as in fine music, with a minimum of referential attributes."

Julian Stanczak's early life was marked by both enormous personal struggle and his commitment to an uplifted outlook informed by art and music. Born in Poland in 1928, he was forced out of the country during WWII and sent to a labor camp. After his escape in 1942, he journeyed through the Middle East to an East African refugee camp. After the war, he emigrated from Europe to the U.S., establishing his residence in Cleveland, Ohio in 1950. He received his BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art (1954), then his MFA at Yale (1956), where he studied with Josef Albers and Conrad Marca-Relli. Today, Stanczak's paintings and prints are in the permanent collection of more than 100 institutions, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Buffalo AKG Art Museum, NY; the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach.