

DIANE ROSENSTEIN

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Roland Reiss: *Je T'aime – Recent Paintings + Drawings From The 1960s* June
24 – August 12, 2016
Gallery Summer Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Opening: Friday, June 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

We are happy to announce *Je T'aime*, an exhibition of intimate floral still-lives, painted recently by Roland Reiss, to be installed in the Project Room. We will also show a selection of rarely seen drawings and collages from the 1960s. This is the Los Angeles-based artist's third solo show with the gallery.

Using the exact same subject, each painting in the "Je T'aime" series is different in detail and color, and deals with the confluence of abstraction and figuration. In the process the artist is able to make some of the elements in floral images become free of their object nature and be experienced as color sequences and activities in their own right. A careful look at the painting will show that a special kind of edge relates the flowers or "figure" to the ground in a unique way by softening the relationship without blending the connection. This allows the shapes and the ground to exist together and in their own terms. The paintings essay a series of color possibilities, keeping in mind that Van Gogh said he wanted to paint sunflowers in all the colors of the rainbow, that a variety of color associations could be applied to paintings, and even to flowers making them unique experiences beyond what one would confront in reality.

The title, "Je T'aime", refers to a gift that the artist received during a recent illness; but he first encountered this title in a series of paintings by Robert Motherwell, especially, "Je T'aime No. 2," (1955). It occurred to him that such a title would apply to these paintings, which affect love in much the same spirit. It is also a specific reference to a gift and signifies love in the broadest and most intimate sense.

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In an adjacent gallery, we will show a collection of early oil-pastel drawings on colored construction paper, from the 1960s. These compositions - often nudes in fantasy environments - were mostly created at UCLA during the summer of 1966. During this period, Reiss was drawing "from the model" with Richard Diebenkorn and William Brice, when they were both teaching at UCLA that summer. The drawings involve a group of figures set in invented domestic settings, in highly stylized renderings that involve exuberant patterns. The semi-abstract elements expose a fresh and somewhat expressionistic sense of human presence and gesture. This is the first time these drawings have been shown for nearly 50 years.

There will be a reception for the artist on Friday, June 24th from 6-8pm.

About the Artist

Roland Reiss (USA, b. 1929) is widely recognized for his Miniatures, but he is first and foremost a painter. He was included in exhibitions in the early 1960s at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the San Francisco Museum of Art; the 1975 Whitney Biennial and dOCUMENTA 7 (1982). LACMA included Mr. Reiss in Avant Garde in the '80s (1987). He has received survey exhibitions from the Begovich Gallery at Cal State Fullerton (2014), Pasadena Museum of Contemporary Art (2011-2012) and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery (1991). Reiss has continuously received solo and group exhibitions throughout his career, at institutions including the Neuberger Museum of Art at SUNY (Purchase, NY), Orange County Museum of Art (Newport Beach, CA), Armory Center for the Arts (Pasadena, CA), San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA), The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, D.C.), and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City, MO). His paintings and sculptures are included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, CA; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and the Orange County Museum of Art (OCMA), among others. Roland Reiss was the Chairman of the Art Department at Claremont Graduate University from 1971- 2000; he has also received four National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowships for both painting and sculpture. Roland Reiss lives and works in Los Angeles.