

Art Dealers Association of America  
The Art Show 2016  
Booth A8  
March 2 – 6, 2016

## Alexander Gray Associates

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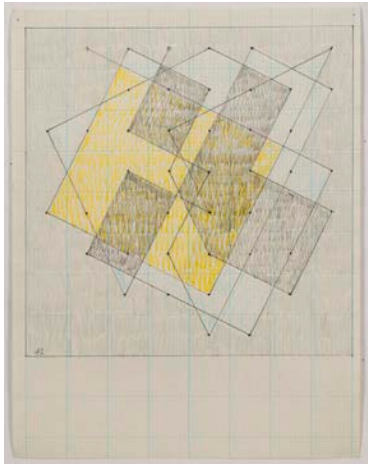
Siah Armajani  
Luis Camnitzer  
Melvin Edwards  
Coco Fusco  
Tomislav Gotovac  
Harmony Hammond  
Vera Neumann  
Lorraine O'Grady  
Joan Semmel  
Hassan Sharif  
Regina Silveira  
Hugh Steers  
Jack Tworkov

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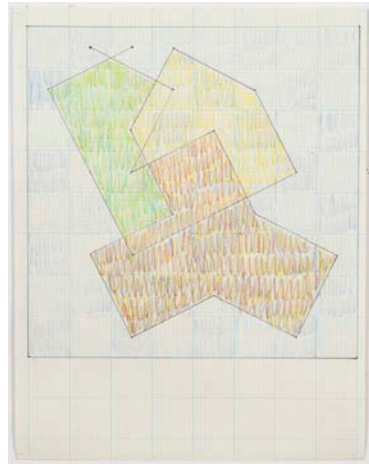
Cover: Jack Tworkov, *Knight Series #3*, 1975  
Oil on canvas, 90h x 75w in (228.6h x 190.5w cm)  
Artworks © 2016 Estate of Jack Tworkov/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

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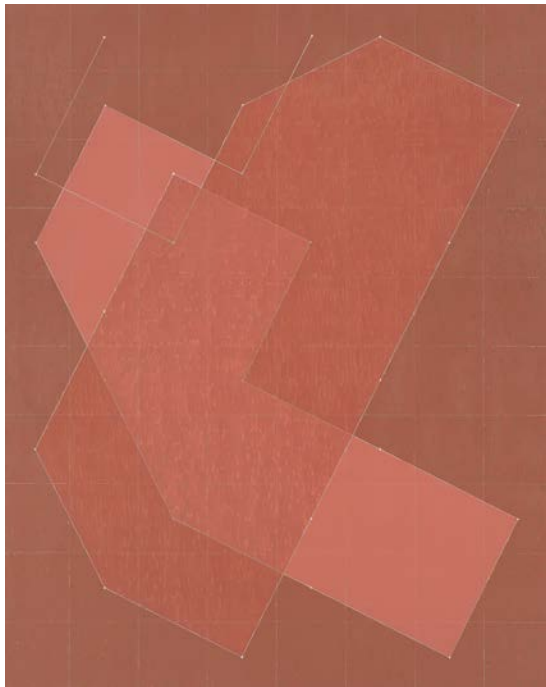
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Study for "Knight Series #3", 1975, pencil, colored pencil on graph paper, 11h x 8.5w in



Study for "Knight Series", c. 1975, graphite and colored pencil on paper, 11h x 8.5w in



*Knight Series #7 (Q3-77 #1)*, 1977, oil on canvas, 92h x 70w in

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### Jack Tworlov: *The Knight Series*

Alexander Gray Associates presents paintings and drawings by Jack Tworlov (b.1900 – d.1982), selected from the artist's "Knight Series" (1974–77). Embodying a key moment in the artist's career, the series underscores the artist's interest in geometry, mark making, and strategy by introducing patterns within a gridded composition based on the various possibilities of the knight's moves across a chessboard.

The development of a conceptual approach to painting in his late work was a radical evolution in Tworlov's practice. Already a pivotal figure in Abstract Expressionism, he was also one of the first to question the movement's commodification, cult of personality, and absorption into academia. By 1965 he took an interest in elementary geometry and abandoned his spontaneous flame-like brush strokes, shifting to a less subjective and more controlled diagrammatic form of abstraction that he found to be "more creative than working in a completely nihilistic way," where "the limits impose a kind of order, yet the range of unexpected possibilities is infinite." In 1974 Tworlov began the "Knight Series," exploring these issues of limits, systems, and intuition. In paintings such as *Knight Series #5 (Q3-76-#6)*, 1976, and *Knight Series #3*, 1975, compositions adopt a familiar grid system with construction lines and structural points that provide a delicate but firm framework embellished with formulaic vertical strokes in rows filling out each square. Unlike the more structured drawings, the paintings' loose, but regulated brushwork reveals his experimentation with planar illusion and geometric form, representing Tworlov's belief that "planning does not exclude intuitive and sometimes random play." For Tworlov, it was vital that the intersecting vertical, horizontal, and slanted lines that resulted from this technique still allowed the viewer to see the simplicity of the painting's fundamental structure.

Related to strategy and war, Tworlov's selection of the Knight icon is far from arbitrary. Taking an ardent position against the Vietnam War, Tworlov's first painting in the series closely followed the fall of Saigon. Within the works, the metaphors of strategy and sequence serve as a response to the political climate, with compositions and processes where the artist favored logic and order over chaos and ambiguity. As art historian Lois Fichner-Rathus writes, "the derived patterns differ widely from work to work, just as the patterns of chess games differ. Still, they remain delimited by the confines of the game board as the rules that govern the movement of the pieces." Works on paper, particularly *39 Continuous Knight Moves (NY 12-28-74 #6)*, 1974, and *Knight Series - Pencil on paper #10 (Q4-75 #1)*, 1975, illustrate this process in formation, providing insight into the mechanism behind the large-scale canvases.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery in New York. Through exhibitions, research, and artist representation, the Gallery spotlights artistic movements and artists who emerged in the mid- to late-Twentieth Century. Influential in cultural, social, and political spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts and artistic disciplines. Alexander Gray Associates is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm.