NEW YORK STUDIO SCHOOL PRESENTS
To Speak of Everything: The Art of Raymond Mason

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Exhibition
The exhibition will include several of Mason’s polychromatic sculptures as well as watercolors and ink drawings executed from the 1950s to the 1990s. Curated by Leo Costello and Sarah Wilson and drawing from the extensive collection of The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, it will highlight the studio-intensive process of a sculptor whose works are rooted in a lifelong and sympathetic recording of people, faces, crowds and the places in which he lived.

This will be the first representative exhibition in New York that addresses the major themes of Mason’s work over a 50-year period. Despite his standing among historically recognized peers and later international success, his work has not been widely included in more recent conversations.

Raymond Mason (British, 1922-2010) studied at the Birmingham School of Arts and Crafts and the Slade School of Art and moved to Paris in 1946 where he was part of the artistic circle that included Balthus, Jean Dubuffet, Alberto Giacometti, Sam Szafran and Henri Cartier-Bresson. Mason is represented in public and private collections in the United States and in Europe, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington; the Tate Gallery, London; and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. He was awarded an Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours of 2002 and was given the title Commandeur de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2008. Mason was the subject of retrospectives at the Serpentine Gallery, London, and the Centre Georges Pompidou.

Thoughts on the Exhibition
“One of the most powerful things I remember my father often saying, and I couldn’t agree more, is that once you see the figures in Raymond’s work, you begin to see them everywhere you go. It is as though you start to see the world through Raymond’s eyes. I’m happy that a contemporary audience will be able to do just that.”
— Julia Louis-Dreyfus

“Raymond Mason was a Romantic; he liked to compare himself – as a Piscean – to Victor Hugo and Les Travailleurs de la mer (1866). He was deeply committed to his art and the long humanist tradition of representation in paint, clay, plaster and bronze, of relief as commemoration, of sculpture as public monument.”
— Sarah Wilson, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art, The Courtauld, University of London

“Known as an artist split between French and British identities, New York may seem a bit neither here nor there for him as a location, though Mason the artist was sort of a citizen of any urban milieu. But in fact, Mason had a long relationship with the city throughout his career, through showing at both Pierre Matisse and Marlborough galleries, through his relationship with William Louis-Dreyfus and through his extraordinary panorama sculpture and drawings of the city, looking south from the fifty-seventh floor of the Chrysler building.”
— Leo Costello, Associate Professor of Art History at Rice University, Houston
The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation
The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation has been established as an educational resource to increase public awareness of the works of self-taught, contemporary and emerging artists. It also intends to benefit other specific educational purposes when it sells selected pieces from its collection, in particular the educational programs of the Harlem Children’s Zone. The Foundation’s collection is housed in museum-quality space in Mount Kisco, New York, and is open to the public by appointment.

New York Studio School
The aim of the New York Studio School is to reveal to entering students appropriate questions about drawing, painting and sculpture and to encourage energetic debates and rigorous thought, enabling them to construct an ethical and philosophical framework for their life’s work. The school is located in Greenwich Village in buildings that comprised the original Whitney Museum of American Art. Graham Nickson, dean since 1988, has expanded artistic programs at the school and has restored the structure to its inherent beauty.

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, January 10
Exhibition opens at New York Studio School
Gallery talk with Sarah Wilson and David Cohen at 5 pm
Opening reception from 6 to 8 pm

Sunday, February 12
Open House at The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation
Mount Kisco, New York
Reception from 1 to 4 pm

Wednesday, February 15
Evening Lecture Series at New York Studio School
Panel discussion with Michael Brenson, Leo Costello, Beatrice Scaccia and Christina Kee
6:30 to 8 pm

Monday, February 20
Exhibition closes

Program Information
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The New York Studio School, 8 West 8th Street, New York, New York
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ST. MARKS PLACE, EAST VILLAGE  
1972  
EPOXY AND ACRYLIC GOUACHE  
27” x 49 1/2” x 19 1/4”

FALLING MAN TWO SKETCHES  
1962  
INK ON PAPER  
19 1/2” x 25 3/4”

LUBERON NEAR MÉNERBES  
1973  
WATERCOLOR ON PAPER  
17” x 23”

PLACE DES VOSGES  
1996  
WATERCOLOR ON PAPER  
18” x 22 1/4”

LES EPOUVANTÉES  
1956  
EPOXY RESIN  
32 3/8” x 49 1/4” x 14 1/2”

A TRAGEDY IN THE NORTH  
1976  
WATERCOLOR AND PENCIL ON PAPER  
18 3/4” x 26”

AVIGNON  
1977  
INK ON PAPER  
17” x 24 1/2”

AN ILLUMINATED CROWD GROUP 1  
1979  
ROSE PLASTER  
13” x 20” x 15”

CABBAGE  
2000  
GOUACHE ON PAPER  
13” x 10 1/2”

Images Upon Request
A selection from the exhibition:  
To Speak of Everything: The Art of Raymond Mason

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