

BETTY CUNINGHAM GALLERY

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PHILIP PEARLSTEIN: *Then and Now*

Dates: Thursday, June 26 – Wednesday, August 6, 2008

Opening Reception: Thursday, June 26, 6 – 8 pm

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday, 10 am – 6pm



Philip Pearlstein

TWO NUDES WITH CAMP CHAIR, 1969

Oil on canvas

60 3/8 x 72 1/2 in.

May 23, 2008 (New York, NY), Betty Cuningham Gallery is pleased to announce its summer exhibition, *Philip Pearlstein: Then and Now*, opening on Thursday, June 26, 2008. The exhibition will include approximately 12 paintings by Philip Pearlstein, half from the 1960's and the other half from the 1990's up to the present.

By presenting paintings from the late 1960's alongside paintings from the 1990's to the present, the exhibition will reveal the unique evolution in Pearlstein's work. Throughout his career Pearlstein always held a commitment to staying with representation but stripping it of content. Inspired by Pearlstein, in the 1960's John Perrault wrote the manifesto for the New Realism:

No stories; no allegories; no symbols.
No hidden meanings; no obvious meanings.
No philosophy, religion, or psychology.
No jokes. No political content. No illustration.
No fantasy or imagination; no dreams; no poetry.

Staying just short of total abstraction, Pearlstein built his paintings from the things which were central to classical art: the nude, its surroundings and even the drapery. The nude in Pearlstein's work is characteristically larger than life and treated with a sense of cold abstraction. Oddly when juxtaposed against the more recent paintings, endowed with objects and toys, the nude becomes harder, marrying the animate with the inanimate in the continuous skin of the painting. In the paintings of the 1990's and later, our focus moves away from the earlier more luscious human body to the spatial and compositional relationships between the objects and nudes. Having started during the heyday of Abstract Expressionism, Pearlstein first dabbled in some expressionist work.

Philip Pearlstein was born in Pittsburgh, PA in 1924 and has been exhibiting in New York since 1955. His work can be seen in 66 museum collections, including The Art Institute of Chicago, The Cleveland Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Whitney Museum.

In addition, Pearlstein has garnered numerous awards and recognitions throughout his life. Most notably are the National Council of Arts Administrators Visual Artist Award, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, and the National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Pearlstein has received honorary doctorate degrees from the New York Academy of Arts, Brooklyn College, and the Center for Creative Studies and the College of Art & Design, Detroit. He served as the President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters from 2003 through 2006.



Philip Pearlstein
TWO NUDES WITH ANIMAL MARIONETTES, 1988
Oil on canvas
72 x 72 in.

Upcoming exhibitions include Galerie Haas & Fuchs, Berlin, and Victoria Miro Gallery, London, both in fall 2008. On June 11, Pearlstein will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Academy.

The exhibition will remain on view through Wednesday, August 6, 2008. Summer hours Monday – Friday 10 -6. For further information, catalogue and/or photographs, please contact the gallery at 212.242.2772 or info@bettycunninghamgallery.com

Next exhibition: Judy Glantzman, September 4 – October 11, 2008