

Jake Berthot

December 7, 2016 – January 7, 2017
Reception: Saturday December 10, 4 – 7 PM



Flag (for Chris), 1991, Oil on linen, 24 x 22 in.

Celebrating the Phillips Collection exhibition *Jake Berthot: From the Collection and Promised Gifts*, Betty Cuninghams Gallery is pleased to mount our own show of Jake Berthot's work, open from December 7th to January 7th. A reception honoring the artist will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 4 – 6 PM. The exhibition will include approximately six paintings dating from 1970 to 2014.

The Gallery's exhibition will include examples of the artist's early abstract works, as well as his later landscape paintings. Berthot began exhibiting in the mid-1960s, at a time when Abstract Expressionism, Pop and Minimalism were part of the aesthetic environment. Berthot's early work was geometric and the color was subdued. Over the following years, his color intensified and the underlying grid opened to include an oval (some thought a portrait or a head). In 1992, Berthot moved to upstate New York. There he began to incorporate the landscape into his paintings – the land that held him and demanded his care. Although his step away from abstraction to figuration seemed radical, the tenets that characterized his work remained the same: his torqued underlying grid, his distinctive brushwork (an admirer of Milton Resnick), and his sensitive color.

The Phillips Collection collected several of Berthot's paintings and works on paper during the artist's lifetime. In 1996 the museum mounted a one person show titled *Jake Berthot: Drawing into Painting*. In appreciation of the continued support, Berthot bequeathed thirteen works to the Collection upon his death in December 2014. This bequest added to the Phillips' already impressive Berthot holdings. On November 19, 2016, the Phillips Collection will open *Jake Berthot:*

From the Collection and Promised Gifts, which will include approximately 30 works spanning Berthot's career. The exhibition will remain on view through April 2, 2017. An illustrated catalogue with essays by Klaus Ottmann and Eliza Rathbone accompanies the exhibition. A celebration – date to be announced – will be held in Washington DC in late January or early February of 2017.

Jake Berthot was born in Niagara Falls, NY in 1939. He attended the New School for Social Research and Pratt Institute in the early 1960s. The artist held teaching positions at Cooper Union, Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, and The School of Visual Arts. He received a number of awards and grants, including a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1981, a National Endowment for the Arts Grant in 1983 and an Academy Institute Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1992. Berthot's work can be seen in a host of notable museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, and The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, all in New York City. Nationally, his work is in the collections of The National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, the Museum of Art, University of California, Berkeley, CA; in addition to the Phillips Collection, Washington, DC.

The Gallery exhibition will remain on view through January 7, 2017.

Listing Information: Betty Cuninghams Gallery is located at 15 Rivington Street, b/t Bowery and Chrystie Street, New York, NY 10002

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Public Transportation: F train to Second Ave, 6 Train to Spring Street

Gallery Hours: Tues – Sat, 10am – 6pm

Next Exhibitions: Chuck Webster, *Look Around*, January 14 - February 18, 2017;

Elizabeth Enders, January 14 - February 18, 2017 (in SIDECAR)