

Silverman Offers Motherwell Estate Works

LOS ANGELES—In 1991, Robert Motherwell and Los Angeles gallerist Manny Silverman made plans for a show. Those plans ended with Motherwell's death that summer. Nine years later, however, Silverman continues to offer works from Motherwell's estate and has just opened a show of the artist's works on paper, which runs through December 16 at his gallery at 619 North Almont Drive.



Neither a hodgepodge of secondary-market works, nor the odds and ends of a late artist's strip-mined studio, the show is an impressive selection of works from the Motherwell estate, which is managed by the Dedalus Foundation based in New York. Honoring Motherwell's wish to exhibit on the West Coast with Silverman, the foundation established a relationship with the veteran dealer and trusted him to place the works in key collections and institutions. From his 1997 Motherwell show, Silverman sold works to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

Of the 40 works on view, 20 are from the "Lyric Suite," a group of ink drawings on rice paper that Motherwell produced while listening to Austrian composer Alban Berg's 1926 string quartet of the same name. Motherwell had intended to complete 1,000 drawings, but was interrupted just shy of 600 by the death of his friend, sculptor David Smith. He never resumed the series. The foundation stipulated that these drawings be placed only in institutions, but has left it to Silverman's discretion to sell the other 20 pieces in the show. The earlier, elegant works include *Sky Blue with Sand*, a 1962 oil on paper, and *Guardian #5*, from 1966, which was made using acrylic and newspaper on paper board. The exhibition's later works include the untitled 1986 ink drawing shown left and the bold acrylic and crayon *Eclipse*, from 1990.

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