

H A L E S

Frank Bowling
Metropolitanblooms
6 September – 14 October 2017

Hales Gallery is pleased to announce the first exhibition in the new Project Room on the Lower East Side: a solo presentation of works from 1978 to 1986 by Frank Bowling, to coincide with Bowling's solo exhibition of recent paintings at Hales London.

Frank Bowling: Metropolitanblooms focuses on a key moment in career of an artist now widely recognised as one of the masters in the field of abstraction in the second half of the 20th century. A decade after his initial plunge into the New York art scene and the world of abstract painting, Bowling – then at the vanguard of Greenbergian post-painterly abstraction – returned to London, both confident in his instinctive understanding of and facility for paint, colour and form, and restless to experiment with new techniques and traditions.

Working from his new studio in London's Pimlico, a stone's throw from the Tate Gallery (now Tate Britain), Bowling found that his painting was evolving in response to its new environment. The newly concentrated dimensions of his canvases and sheets of paper, now being made in a studio measuring just 12 x 14 feet, stand in marked contrast to the vast colour fields and poured monoliths of the 1960s and '70s, demonstrating an artist committed to experimentation with both medium and scale.

Perhaps the most significant change, however, was the rediscovery of a distinctly painterly voice. Turning his attention to the spectacular use of natural light and landscape in the work of the great English masters – Gainsborough, Turner and Constable – Bowling began to let go of the rigours of New York formalism, giving way to a renewed expressive urge, consummated in the creation of a series of masterful constellations of light and shade.

Fusing clear intention and virtuosic improvisation, Bowling called on his expansive repertoire of techniques to manipulate the surface of his paintings, whether on paper or canvas: pouring; staining; scratching; creating layered streams, pools and diffusions of gorgeous colour; interrupting currents with drips and splashes; scattering chemicals to create mottles and veins. These complex manipulations, the whorls of paint and variations of light and darkness, resulted in a series of enigmatic, highly expressive shapes and patterns that simultaneously evoke the land, sea and skies.

Painted in the period leading to Bowling's seminal exhibition at London's Serpentine Gallery in 1986, these compact, potent works in many ways express the achievements and ambitions of a mid-career painter hitting his stride, combining experience and assurance with new influences and impulses to dazzling effect.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Frank Bowling OBE RA (b. Guyana, 1936) moved to London in 1953, where his artistic career began shortly after his arrival at the Royal College of Art (1959-62). He has since established studios in both New York and London.

Bowling's paintings have been exhibited widely and internationally. Selected solo shows include Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1971); Serpentine Gallery, London (1986); a UK touring retrospective (2003); Royal Academy of Arts, London (2011); Spritmuseum, Stockholm (2014–15); and Dallas Museum of Art (2015). A comprehensive survey of his large paintings is currently on show at Haus der Kunst, Munich (2017–2018). Curated by Okwui Enwezor, *Frank Bowling: Mappa Mundi* will be touring to IMMA, Dublin (2018) and the Sharjah Art Foundation in the UAE (2018–2019). His work is currently also on display in 'Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power' at Tate Modern, London.

Bowling's work can be found in numerous public and private collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), Museum of Modern Art (New York), Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), Dallas Museum of Art (Dallas), Royal Academy of Arts (London), Tate Gallery (London), Victoria & Albert Museum (London), and the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York).

H A L E S

THE PROJECT ROOM, NEW YORK:

Complementing the gallery's existing exhibitions programme in London, the Project Room is dedicated to an ongoing series of spotlight displays. The intimate environment provides an opportunity to shine a focused light both on particular highlights and on lesser-known facets of the oeuvres of its exhibiting artists, historic and new.

The Project Room is located on 64 Delancey Street in New York's Lower East Side, where in March 2016 Hales opened its by-appointment office. The introduction of this new programme builds on the success of last year's expansion, reinforcing the gallery's long-standing and deeply valued relationship with collectors, artists and institutions in North America and the international art community.

Gallery News

Carolee Schneemann

Kinetic Painting

31 May - 17 September 2017

Museum für Moderne Kunst Frankfurt am Main

Domstraße 10

60311 Frankfurt am Main

Frank Bowling

Mappa Mundi

23 June 2017 - 1 August 2018

Haus der Kunst

Prinzregentenstraße 1

80538 München, Germany

Frank Bowling & Virginia Jaramillo

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power

12 July - 22 October 2017

Tate Modern

Bankside, London

SE1 9TG

Virginia Jaramillo

We Wanted a Revolution: Black

Radical Women, 1965-85

21 April - 17 September 2017

Brooklyn Museum

200 Eastern Parkway

Brooklyn, New York

Hew Locke

Diaspora Pavilion

13 May - 26 November 2017

57th Venice Biennale

Palazzo Pisani

30100 Venice, Italy

Hew Locke

For Those in Peril on the Sea

21 July 2017 - 26 August 2018

Pérez Art Museum Miami

03 Biscayne Blvd.

Miami, FL 33132

Michael Smith

Not Quite Under_Ground

Munster Sculpture Project

10 June - 1 October 2017

Skulptur Projekte Münster

LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur

Domplatz 10, D-48143 Münster, Germany

Trenton Doyle Hancock

Texas Artist of the Year Exhibition

8 September - 4 November 2017

Art League Houston

1953 Montrose Blvd,

Houston, TX 77006

Art Fairs

Thomas J Price

Frieze Sculpture Park

5 July - 8 October 2017

Regent's Park

London, NW1 4NR

Frieze London

4 - 8 October

Regent's Park

London, NW1 4NR