

Waddington Galleries

PRESS RELEASE

Antoni Tàpies

Recent Paintings

Exhibition dates: 25 April - 19 May 2001

Exhibition hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 5.30pm Saturday 10am – 1pm

"The artist must invent everything; he must jump whole-heartedly into the unknown, rejecting all prejudice, including in my opinion, the study of technique and the use of materials considered to be traditional."

"I have always believed that a painting doesn't represent things, but is a thing; a kind of talisman that even through touch can exert an influence on us."

Antoni Tàpies

Waddington Galleries will present an exhibition of twelve paintings by Antoni Tàpies, the Spanish artist, which were all completed last year.

The paintings in the exhibition are of varying scale and reveal Tàpies' use of media including marble dust, sand, pigment, and varnish. In some, the most normal of objects and materials are incorporated into the surface of the paintings such as a key, old clothes and straw. Cryptic letters, numbers and symbols are scored and marked upon the surfaces giving the commonplace elements renewed significance.

Tàpies work has clear roots in Dada and Surrealism. The artist has for the most part lived and worked in his native Catalonia, a region of Spain with distinct historical and cultural identities that have deeply influenced his practice. Tàpies' interest in Oriental philosophies also provides contexts for considering his work.

Antoni Tàpies was born in 1923. He found early recognition with his participation in the Venice Biennale and at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, America in 1952. A year later he had his first one man exhibition in New York at the Martha Jackson Gallery. Since then, Tàpies has exhibited worldwide. His first retrospectives were in 1962 at the Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hannover and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. His first retrospective in Great Britain was at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London (1965). His most recent retrospective was held last year at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid. Tàpies has received many awards including the Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Government (1988), the Peace Prize from the United Nations Association in Spain (1984), and the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale (1993). In 1991 the Fundació Antoini Tàpies opened in Barcelona to exhibit and promote the study of Modern and Eastern art and as a place to see important examples of Tàpies' work.

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Sarah Whitfield accompanies this exhibition.

For further information or photographs, please contact Elisabeth Rackham

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