Philip Guston: The Essential Line

WOODSTOCK ARTISTS ASSOCIATION & MUSEUM
SOLO GALLERY

AUGUST 10 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

RECEPTION Saturday, August 17, 4-6 PM
Philip Guston: The Essential Line
August 10 - September 1, 2019

During the years 1965-1967 following a very productive period of painting and that included an important retrospective of Guston’s work at the Guggenheim Museum, Guston retreated to Florida and abandoned his painting to concentrate only on drawing. During this time Guston created a series of works on paper referred to as the “pure drawings.”

Philip Guston - The Essential Line, is a selection of twelve ink on paper drawings that were completed in a two year period of time between 1966 and 1967. This was an extremely liberating time for Guston. In an interview with Mark Stevens that appeared in The New Republic (March 15, 1980) the artist commented on this work saying - “It was a clearing the decks. It was like starting again, like a child, just taking a very simple line”…..what would happen, I thought, if I eliminated everything except just raw feeling and the brush and ink, the simplest of means without even the seductions of color. It was like testing myself, to see what I am, what I can do.”

In conjunction with the exhibition a special performance of Morton Feldman’s composition, For Philip Guston, will take place on Sat. August 10th, 1-5pm performed by musicians Bill Solomon and David Friend of New York’s Bent Duo with special guest Emlyn Johnson on flutes.

Janice La Motta
Executive Director | Curator of the Permanent Collection

Exhibition Checklist

1. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

2. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

3. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

4. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

5. Aloft, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

6. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

7. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

8. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

9. Untitled, 1967  
   ink on paper  
   Private Collection

10. Loaded Brush, 1966  
    ink on paper  
    Private Collection

11. Untitled, 1967  
    ink on paper  
    Private Collection

12. Untitled, 1967  
    ink on paper  
    Private Collection

Special thanks to Sally Radic and the Guston Foundation for their assistance in making this exhibition possible.

We are grateful to the New York State Council on the Arts for their support of the performance of Morton Feldman’s composition, For Philip Guston.