

ROSENBERG & CO.

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DONALD HAMILTON FRASER

September 25 – December 21, 2019



Rosenberg & Co. is pleased to present *Donald Hamilton Fraser*, featuring twenty-two works spanning more than thirty years of the artist's career (1953 – 1985). As one of the most distinctive British painters to emerge from the generation of artists following World War II, Fraser is known for both his landscapes and his abstract collage paintings, and was deeply inspired by Nicholas de Staël and the use of the palette knife.

The “symbolic language” of Fraser's paintings finds its root in his first love: poetry. During his mandatory military service, however, Fraser experienced a creative shift, and the abundance of visual imagery in his poems began to concretize into paintings. With his service completed, Fraser attended St. Martin's School of Art from 1949 to 1952. Although Fraser's initial works contained figurative subjects, he began to experiment with abstraction during this period. In 1953, Fraser received a scholarship from the French government to study in France. This intensive year of study enabled Fraser to arrive at his own aesthetic gestures, working between American Abstract Expressionism, French Tachisme, and a signature style that straddled de Staël's abstraction and a more poetic figuration.

The result of Fraser's hybrid influences is an expressionistic, vibrant, and layered painterly style, juxtaposing color with geometry, and guiding his compositions with what he termed “a tonal and linear structure that would sustain the figurative elements.” In the early 1960s, Fraser turned toward more radical abstraction—citing the sudden feeling of “an intolerable limitation”—only to return to figuration later on. He never fully abandoned either mode, though, always grounding his work in an intense focus on color, as shown in the richly painted *Table with Blue Flowers*, 1957 and the harder-edged *Untitled*, 1968.

Showing at Gimpel Fils in London throughout his career, Fraser also exhibited at Paul Rosenberg & Co. in New York in the 1960s and 1970s.

Rosenberg & Co. exhibits an international roster of works by prominent Impressionist, Modern, and contemporary artists, and represents the artists Brendan Stuart Burns, Maureen Chatfield, and Tom H. John, as well as the estates of Reuben Nakian, Fred Stein, and Jeffrey Wasserman.

ROSENBERG & CO.
19 EAST 66TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10065

Monday – Saturday, 10am–6pm
T: +1 (212) 202-3270
E: info@rosenbergco.com

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For further information, please visit www.rosenbergco.com or contact Margaret Trenis at margaret@rosenbergco.com or +1 (212) 202-3270.