

TIBOR DE NAGY

11 Rivington St New York NY 10002 212 262 5050 info@tibordenagy.com

Jesse Murry *Radical Solitude*

November 22, 2019 to January 12, 2020
Opening reception, Sunday, November 24, 4-6pm



Jesse Murry *Abyss (Radical Solitude)*, 1992 oil and beeswax on canvas 20 x 20 inches

Tibor de Nagy is pleased to present Jesse Murry *Radical Solitude* an exhibition of paintings and works on paper from the late 1980s to the early 1990s. This is the first solo exhibition of the artist's work since his death in 1993. This show is curated by the artist's friend Clay Hapaz. A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition with an essay by Alex Fialho.

The exhibition will focus on work made in New York after the artist graduated from Yale in 1986 with an MFA in painting. Although he was deeply inspired by the Romantic landscape tradition, particularly Turner, Constable, and Friedrich, he used landscape not so much as the subject of his work, but as the form through which the mind can freely interpret the dynamic and transient conditions of climate and weather, light and atmosphere, not as events in nature but as events of the imagination.

Murry's primary source was the poet Wallace Stevens who he considered to be the true great Post-Modernist mind. Like Stevens, Murry felt that in an age of disbelief, we can only save ourselves through a willing suspension of disbelief, by an act of mind or the imagination. Murry sought not transcendence but a reaffirmation of existence through the mind, and the mind's image of itself conceived within the context of the landscape. Murry believed, as did Stevens, in art as a supreme fiction: it must be abstract, it must change, it must give pleasure.

Murry's work was last seen in New York in Hilton Als' exhibit *James Baldwin/Jim Brown and the Children* at the Artist's Institute at Hunter College in 2016 where Murry was linked with

composer Julius Eastman and writer Gary Fisher - two other radical black, gay artists whose work was underknown at the time of their early deaths.

Jesse Murry was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina in 1948 and raised in Greenburgh, NY. He studied philosophy and art at Sarah Lawrence. He moved to SoHo in the late 1970s, living at 431 Broome Street, where his neighbor and close friend was video artist Tom Rubnitz. He immersed himself in the art world of the time and wrote criticism and essays for *Arts Magazine* and other publications. He curated *Reverend Howard Finster* at the New Museum in 1982. He did artists lectures and taught art history at Hobart College. All the while, he painted. At the age of 36 he began the MFA program at Yale. Not long after graduating he began to exhibit with Sharpe Gallery in the East Village. Jesse Murry died in January of 1993.

The exhibit will consist of thirteen works – eight oil and beeswax paintings on linen, and five watercolors on paper. A selection of his writing will also be on view in the exhibition.

About Tibor de Nagy:

Tibor de Nagy continues its significant role in contemporary American Art since its founding in 1950. In June 2017, the gallery moved to the Lower East Side at 11 Rivington Street.

Tibor de Nagy Gallery presents exhibitions of such contemporary artists as Sarah McEaney, Trevor Winkfield and Jen Mazza, as well artists from the Post War second generation New York School. Its long history includes the first exhibitions of Carl Andre, Helen Frankenthaler, Jane Freilicher, Red Grooms, Grace Hartigan, Alfred Leslie, Fairfield Porter and Larry Rivers.

The gallery's program continues its mission to present a broad overview of contemporary art of singular vision including recent exhibitions of Hannah Wilke, Francis Picabia, and Jess. This unique history has also fostered collaborations between poets and artists. The gallery was the first publisher of the poems of John Ashbery, Frank O'Hara, Kenneth Koch, and James Schuyler.

Listings Information:

Tibor de Nagy Gallery is located at 11 Rivington Street on the Lower East Side
Tel: 212 262 5050. | Web: www.tibordenagy.com | Email: info@tibordenagy.com

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10am – 6pm, Sunday 12pm – 6pm

Social Media:

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning Tibor de Nagy and using the hashtags #JesseMurry and #tibordenagy when posting. Facebook: Tibor de Nagy Gallery | Instagram: @tibordenagygallery | Twitter: @TiborDeNagy