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# WOLF KAHN

14 MARCH – 13 APRIL 2019

**NEW YORK – MILES MCENERY GALLERY** is delighted to present an exhibition of works by Wolf Kahn, on view 14 March through 13 April at 525 West 22nd Street. A public reception will be held for the artist on Thursday 14 March from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, featuring an essay by Martica Sawin.

Including paintings dating from the 1960s as well as a selection of recent works, this exhibition illustrates the evolution of Wolf Kahn's prolific career and his continuing exploration of the relationships between color and form. Kahn's earlier, more densely painted canvases often feature darker, tonal hues, while his works from the late '60s represent a transition to an increasingly vivid palette. Illuminated by brilliant bands of color, his vigorously painted landscapes possess a captivating rhythm and alluring vibrancy. By juxtaposing bold tones with the muted shades of the natural world, Kahn produces a kind of contrast that energizes the surface of the canvas while simultaneously creating a sense of balance. After decades of painting, Kahn's masterful use of color remains his primary subject.



While Kahn's subject matter remains rooted in reality, his abstract methods of representation reveal a unique dynamic between representational painting and abstract principles. As Martica Sawin suggests, "The significance of his contribution to the panorama of contemporary American art lies in the way his works preserve certain values of modernism, pay homage to the nature that surrounds us, embody the highest level of painterly performance, and take cognizance of changing ways of thinking about and producing art, while not letting go of what has gone before."

Kahn works intuitively, letting the painting guide his next movements. With over 70 years of experience, he continues to challenge himself, painting nearly everyday, and his work remains ever evolving. "I have to keep my innocence of spirit," Kahn says. "You have to allow for failure. If you can't grow at 91, when can you grow? I'm striving for the moment where the painting starts giving me a hard time."

**WOLF KAHN** was born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1927. He immigrated to the United States by way of England in 1940. In 1945, he graduated from the High School of Music & Art in New York, after which he spent time in the Navy. Under the GI Bill, he studied with renowned teacher and Abstract Expressionist painter Hans Hofmann, later becoming Hofmann's studio assistant. In 1950, he enrolled in the University of Chicago, and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After completing his degree in only one year, Kahn decided to return to being a full-time artist. He and other former Hofmann students established the Hansa Gallery, a cooperative gallery where Kahn had his first solo exhibition. In 1956, he joined the Grace Borgenicht Gallery, where he exhibited regularly until 1995. Kahn has received a Fulbright Scholarship, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, an Award in Art from the Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Medal of Arts from the U.S. State Department.

Traveling extensively, he has painted landscapes in Egypt, Greece, Hawaii, Italy, Kenya, Maine, Mexico, and New Mexico. He spends his summers and autumns in Vermont on a hillside farm, which he and his wife, the painter Emily Mason, have owned since 1968, but his primary residence is in New York City.

## Miles McEnery Gallery

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Kahn's work is set apart by his masterful synthesis of artistic traits—the modern abstract training of Hans Hofmann, the palette of Matisse, Rothko's sweeping bands of color, the atmospheric qualities of American Impressionism. The fusion of color, spontaneity and representation has produced a rich and expressive body of work.

Wolf Kahn regularly exhibits at galleries and museums across North America. His work may be found in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; the Hirshhorn Museum and the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA.

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Miles McEnergy Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and by appointment.

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Image: *Bright, but not too Bright*, 2018, Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 inches, 76.2 x 76.2 cm

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