



FRANK BOWLING

ZIPPERS: Latest works

ROLLO Contemporary Art, 51 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JH

11th September – 9th October 2009

ROLLO Contemporary Art presents the latest works by gallery artist, Frank Bowling RA from 11th September – 9th October 2009.

ROLLO's exhibition will show Frank's 'Zippers' a new series of works devised in 2009. Frank's 'Zippers' exude life and vibrancy in their citric colours and energetic application of paint. Surfaces dance with colour and movement of yellow to blues, marked with the key trait of a distorted line or 'zip' running through the centre of the painting, referencing Barnett Newman, an artist Frank has often alluded to in his titles, such as 'Who's Afraid Of Barney Newman' 1968 (collection of The Tate).

Born in 1936 in British Guiana, South America, Frank Bowling is widely considered Britain's greatest living abstract painter. The ultimate 'painter's painter' Bowling never fails to impress with his unique and audacious handling of colour. Bowling graduated from the infamous Royal College of Art class of 1962, alongside David Hockney and Kitaj. After graduating Frank set up a studio in New York on Broadway and Spring, SoHo, and one in London, where he would continue to split his time for the next four decades. For years Frank's career soared in the US, championed by the great critic Clement Greenberg, whilst London closed its doors on Bowling. Forever respected by artists, critic and curators, in 2005 Bowling was at last asked to become a Royal Academician – 39 years later than Bowling had expected – and making him the first black artist to be a Royal Academician in its 240 year history.

In 2009 Frank has continued in his acclaimed trajectory, being honoured with an OBE. This year Frank has exhibited his works at Clifford Chance Art Space 'Big Paintings' (solo exhibition travelled from The Arts Institute Bournemouth in 2008 as part of the prestigious Text and Work series and The University of Wolverhampton), at Hampshire Discovery Centre County Council Museum, Winchester, 'Frank Bowling RA OBE Paintings' and 'The Mark of the Hand' at Spanierman Modern, New York. Bowling's masterful painting of 1966, *Mirror*, has hung in the Manton Staircase of the Tate Britain this year, and in September 2009 two of Bowling's works will be shown at Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, N.Y. in 'British Subjects', an exhibition surveying British artists self portraiture from 1960-2000.

Having lived and worked at the heart of the New York art scene through the 60s and 70s on Broadway in SoHo and in London as part of the notorious Chelsea Road set, Bowling has always existed at the centre of the artistic action. Finally, Bowling's colourful stories of his art and life will be recorded in a long awaited monograph to be written this year by the acclaimed writer on abstract art, Mel Gooding.

ROLLO honours Frank's remarkable career and celebrates his latest works in **Zippers** from 11th September – 9th October 2009

For further information contact Yasmin Amaratunga, exhibition organiser, ROLLO Contemporary Art +44 (0)20 7580 0020 or on info@rolloart.com

Notes to Editors:

Frank Bowling is exclusively represented by ROLLO Contemporary Art.

Frank Bowling has exhibited at:

2009 LIGHT AND WATER: Frank Bowling RA Big Paintings at Clifford Chance exhibition space, London, solo show

2008 *REDEMPTION SONG*, 'Bridgetown to Brighton', Brighton Jubilee Library, solo show

2004, *This was tomorrow: Art and the Sixties*, Tate Britain, London, group exhibition

2003 Faultlines: Contemporary African Art and Shifting Landscapes, a project for the 50th Venice Biennale 2003 Curated by Gilane Tawadros, Director Institute of International Visual Arts, London

Frank's works are included in the collections of:

Arts Council of Great Britain

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Tate Gallery, London

Whitney Museum of American Art

Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Museum of Modern Art, New York

ROLLO Contemporary Art:

2008, *Frank Bowling latest works*, solo show

2008, *ROLLO Preview 08*, group exhibition

2006, *Frank Bowling*