

Frank Bowling: Poured Paintings

An exhibition at the Arts Club
Curated by ROLLO Contemporary Art

An exhibition of the first 'poured' paintings will open at the Arts Club May 2nd demonstrating Frank Bowling RA's (b.1936) paramount contribution to abstract art.

At 71 Bowling boasts an impressive artistic career. Studying at the Royal College of Art (1959-62), maintaining transatlantic studios (London and NY), elected the first black member of RA (2005), included in many prestigious public collections – Metropolitan Museum, NY, Museum of Modern Art, NY, The Tate, the first living black artist to have work on display in the Tate and a solo show at the Royal Academy.

The work at the Arts Club will focus on his output in the 1970s when in 1973 Frank pioneered a method of creating abstract paintings. Setting up his canvases at a 45 degree angle on a trestle table, paint was poured from the top of the canvas, allowing it to run and meld by its own volition. This method was completely original creating work in a way not even Jackson Pollock through to Larry Poons had done. The exhibition at the Arts Club will demonstrate this innovation and contribution to abstract art, exhibiting 14 of Bowling's 'poured' works from the mid 1970s to the present.

The exhibition coincides with a solo show at Peg Alston Fine Arts NY and a talk (Tate Britain 9th May 2007) Frank Bowling in conversation with Mel Gooding.

For further information please contact Philippa Found at ROLLO Contemporary Art, 0207 493 8383 philippa@rolloart.com

Notes to Editors

On 25th May 2005 Frank Bowling was elected a member of the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Subsequently, in summer 2006, his painting 'Wintergreens' was hung in the Norman Shaw staircase and in December 2006 Bowling's solo exhibition, curated by ROLLO Contemporary Art, opened in the Hugh Casson Room for Friends at the Royal Academy.

Bowling has received many prominent awards including the Pollock Krasner Award, twice, in 1992 and 1998. The Arts Council of Great Britain Award, 1977 and The New York State CAPS Award in 1975.

Frank Bowling has work in many prestigious public collections including Royal College of Art, London, Whitney Museum of American Art, The Tate, London, National Gallery of Jamaica, Kingston, West Indies, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and Museum of Modern Art, New York.

The Tate has purchased three of Frank Bowling's works for their collection. 'Who's Afraid of Barney Newman' is currently on display in the 1960's Room, Tate Britain.

Frank Bowling has exhibited extensively over the world including exhibiting his 'Map' painting 'Marcia H Travels' in the 2003 Venice Biennale.

ROLLO Contemporary Art has represented Frank Bowling in the UK for the last 2 years.

Simon Gillespie, director of ROLLO Contemporary Art, has worked in the art world for over 25 years and for the last decade has focused on contemporary practice. He has extensive experience in building public and private collections in both Europe and the U.S.