



ROLLO Contemporary Art's forthcoming solo exhibition of paintings by **Frank Bowling RA** will present Bowling's latest body of work created in 2010, alongside works selected from the last decade, displaying Bowling's masterful handling of colour and evocation of light in painting.

Frank Bowling is best known for his highly coloured, textural, and often large scale abstract acrylic paintings, which relate to a history of British landscape painting and are frequently noted as referencing the colours of his native Guyana. A 'painter's painter', Bowling's works show an audacious yet subtle handling of colour and an extraordinary ability to capture light, and evoke the elements of heat and water, through his use of paint. Driven by an exploration of colour and shape within the pictorial space, over his career, spanning five decades, Bowling's paintings have developed defining characteristics. In the late 1960s Bowling developed a series of map paintings, in which spectral maps can be found within highly coloured acrylic washes. In the 1970's Bowling created a pioneering series of 'Poured Paintings'. In the 1980's, having moved to a studio in Cable Street, London near to the Thames, and with a studio in New York overlooking the Brooklyn Bridge and the East River, Bowling's work is characterised by an incredibly dense application of acrylics and the use of gel to build a liquid finish alluding to water. In the 1990's Bowling began integrating fragments of different coloured canvases into one painting to further explore colour, form, and the division of pictorial space. Bowling's latest body of work displays an explosive application of paint on top of golden and citric hues, demonstrating his continual masterful handling of colour and evocation of light and heat in painting.

Frank Bowling was born in British Guiana in 1936, in the early 1950's Bowling moved to London where he currently lives and works. Bowling graduated from the Royal College of Art, London, in the famous class of 1962, alongside David Hockney, and Ron Kitai, the generation who laid the foundation of Pop Art in Britain. Subsequently Bowling set up studios in both London and New York, dividing his time between the two cities. Bowling has been awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships (1967 and 1973), elected a Royal Academician (2005) and has been honoured with an OBE (2008).

Frank Bowling has exhibited internationally at The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Tate Britain, London, Whitechapel, London, Serpentine, London, and the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Bowling's works are included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, MOMA, New York, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, The Museum of Fine Art, Boston, Tate, London, and many private collections.

Forthcoming museum exhibitions include a solo exhibition at The Royal Academy of Arts, London, in June 2011, which will launch Frank Bowling's forthcoming monograph written by Mel Gooding. 2011 will also see the launch of the film covering Frank Bowling's life and career by renowned film maker Rose Jones, which includes footage of Bowling throughout the decades, working in his studio in New York in the 1960s, through to creating works in his London studio in 2006 and will give an extraordinary insight into Bowling's life and work. In 2012, Frank Bowling's acclaimed work '*Mirror*' will be included in the exhibition, British Art and Design 1948-2012 at the V&A Museum in London.

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For further information or images please contact Philippa Found, Gallery Director, ROLLO Contemporary Art, philippa@rolloart.com or +44 (0) 20 7580 0020

A press launch and private view brunch will be held on Sunday 11th July from 11am – 1.30pm at ROLLO Contemporary Art Gallery London, 51 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JH

Image: Frank Bowling, Neptune, 2010, Acrylic on canvas, 21.5 x 41 inches