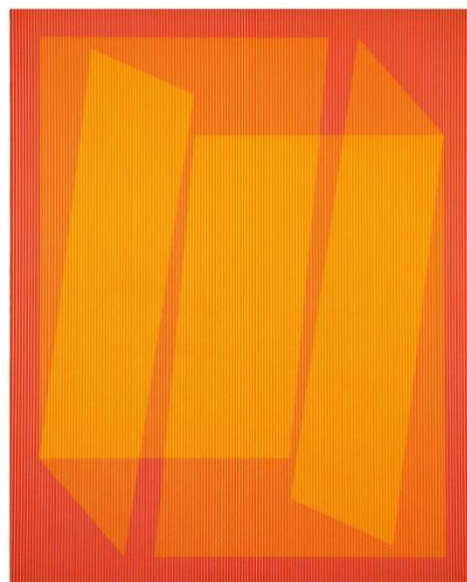


THE MAYOR GALLERY

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FAIR FOR SAATCHI
26 – 30 JUNE 2019

British & International Op Art
STAND 2



Julian Stanczak, *Assemble*, 1973-74, acrylic on canvas, 127 x 101 cm

At Fair For Saatchi 2019, The Mayor Gallery is presenting a selection of some of the **most important Op artists of the 20th Century, both British and International** with works spanning from the early 1960s to Contemporary with a wide price range of £4,000 - £235,000.

Op Art is a term given to visual art which gives viewer the illusion of movement, hidden images, flashing and vibrating patterns, and plays with the interaction of colour relationships. It is perceptual abstraction without conceptual associations, brush gestures, references to previous experiences or nationality.

It was coined by Time magazine after **Julian Stańczak's** (b. 1928 Borownica, Poland – d. 2017 Ohio, United States) first major show, Julian Stańczak: Optical Paintings, held at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York, 1964. After The Museum of Modern Art's seminal 1965 exhibition **The Responsive Eye** in New York which toured to St Louis, Seattle, Pasadena and Baltimore. The style was popularised in not only art, but in design and advertising and brought to the masses.

Works now described as 'Op art' had been produced for several years before *Time's* 1964 article and the style more closely derives from the constructivist practices of the Bauhaus which stressed the relationship of form and function within a framework of analysis and rationality. In 1955, for the exhibition *Mouvements* at the **Denise René gallery in Paris**, Victor Vasarely and Pontus Hulten promoted in their "Yellow manifesto" some new kinetic expressions based on optical and luminous phenomenon as well as painting illusionism. The expression *kinetic art* in this modern form first appeared at the Museum für Gestaltung of Zürich in 1960, and found its major developments in the 1960s. Op and Kinetic ideas have continued to be explored throughout the 20th Century through most major movements with the same ideas now being pushed further through **Digital art** in the 21st Century with artists such as **Miguel Chevalier** (b. 1959 Mexico City, Mexico – Lives and works in Paris, France).

Our stand includes works by **Carlos Cruz – Diez** (b. 1923 Caracas, Venezuela); a master and innovator of colour theory and perception, **Francois Morellet** (b. 1926 Cholet – d. 2016 Cholet, France) and **Julio Le Parc** (b. 1928 Mendoza, Argentina) who both founded *Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel* (GRAV) (1961 to 1968) and **Heinz Mack** (b. 1931 Hesse, Germany); a co-founder of the Zero Group. From **Arte programmata** (Italian Kinetic Art from the 1960s) we have **Davide Boriani** (b. 1936 Milan, Italy) and **Marina Apollonio** (b. 1940 Trieste, Italy) as well as many more. All have featured in many large-scale retrospectives of the movement all over the world including *Op Art* at the Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, 2007, *The Illusive Eye*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, 2016 and *Op Art in Focus* currently at the Tate, Liverpool.

We are also pleased to present a kinetic **Takis** sculpture (b. 1925 Athens, Greece) who has an **upcoming Retrospective at the Tate** 3 July – 27 October 2019.

Press enquiries:
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