



JACOB KAINEN

September 16 – October 28, 2023

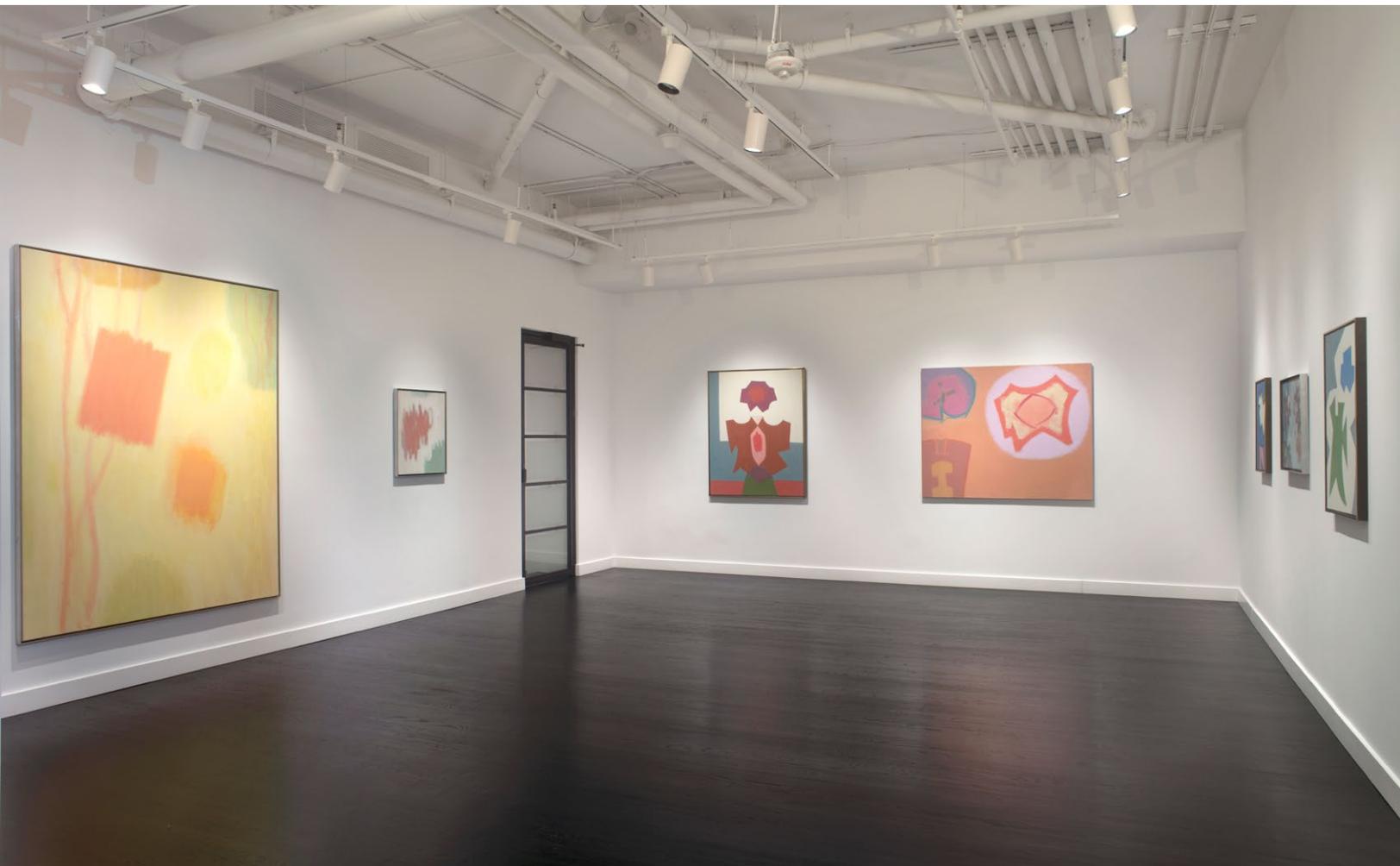
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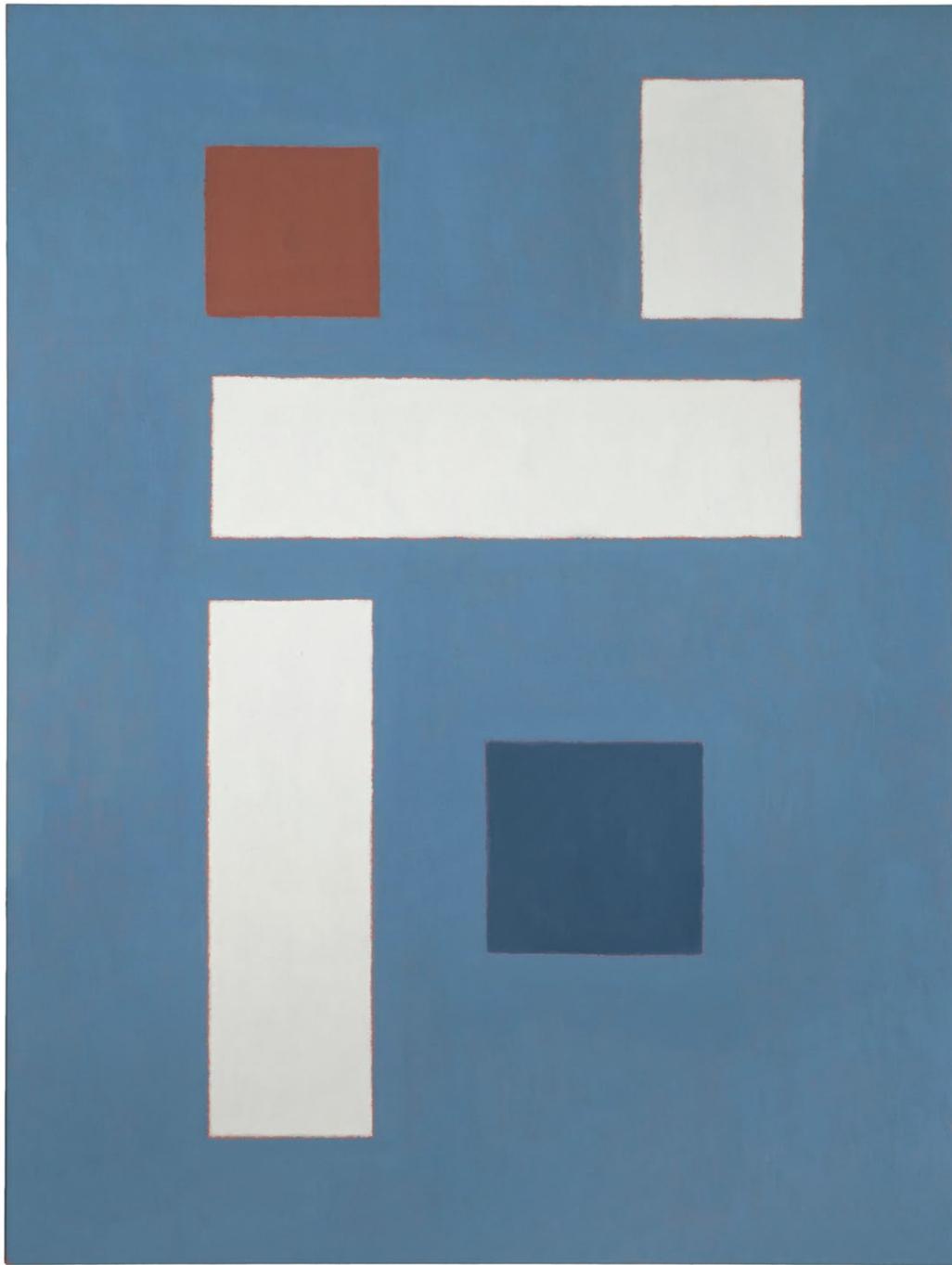
"However abstract the forms and colors seem, they should somehow give off an aura of human experience."
– Jacob Kainen

Born in 1909 in Waterbury, CT, Jacob Kainen studied at the Art Students League and worked in the WPA Graphic Arts program in the 1930s. His social realist work of the 1930s and 1940s reflected the turbulence of the Great Depression leading into the WWII era. Moving from New York to Washington in 1942, by the end of the decade he turned to organic abstraction and developed a spatial, gestural style of painting incorporating forms found in everyday life made ambiguous through abstraction. In each subsequent decade of his career, Kainen sought to refine and revisit these everyday forms.

The earliest paintings on view, from 1951 and 1953, are complemented by a suite of paintings on paper showing the clear and rapid development Kainen's new form of abstraction. Mr. Kafka, 1970, takes its composition from a figment of clothing hanging in space, adding up to a representation of the figure. Kainen returned to the Mr. Kafka composition again and again, re-addressing the shapes in both sketch and etching formats. Through the 1970s and 1980s, Kainen alternated between periods of lyrical abstraction and geometric abstraction, employing a practiced method of layering pigments, feathering the edges of his compositional elements so that they seem to float across the canvas.

JACOB KAINEN is the 7th solo exhibition of the artist's work presented by HEMPHILL Artworks since 1997. Kainen was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 1993, and his work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Yale University Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among other public and private collections.





Pilot IX
1982
oil on linen
80 x 60 inches



The Reprieve
1951
oil on linen
30 x 24 inches



Pilot XV
1986
oil on linen
72 x 54 inches



Escudero
1970
oil on linen
24 x 18 inches



Bright Stamboul VIII
1985
oil on linen
60 x 50 inches



Mr. Kafka
1970
oil on linen
50 x 40 inches





Barrier III
1984
oil on linen
60 x 84 inches



Convoy
1987
oil on linen
26 x 22 inches



The Absent One
1972
oil on linen
48 x 60 inches



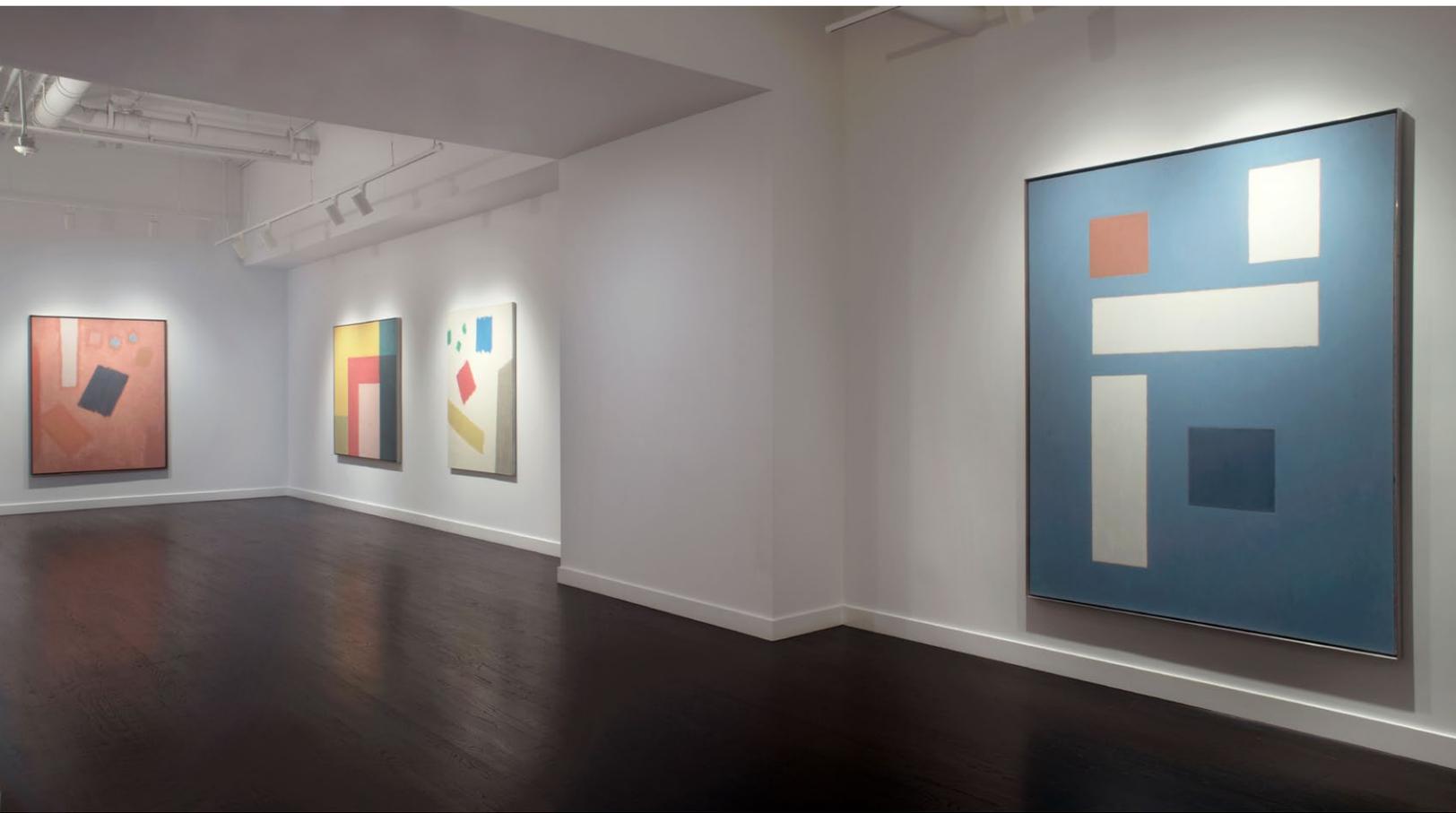
Artic Figure
1970
oil on linen
32 x 24 inches



Pilot XXIII
1988
oil on linen
80 x 64 inches



Transfixed
1953
oil on linen
20 x 26 inches





Bright Stamboul IV
1985
oil on linen
66 x 86 inches



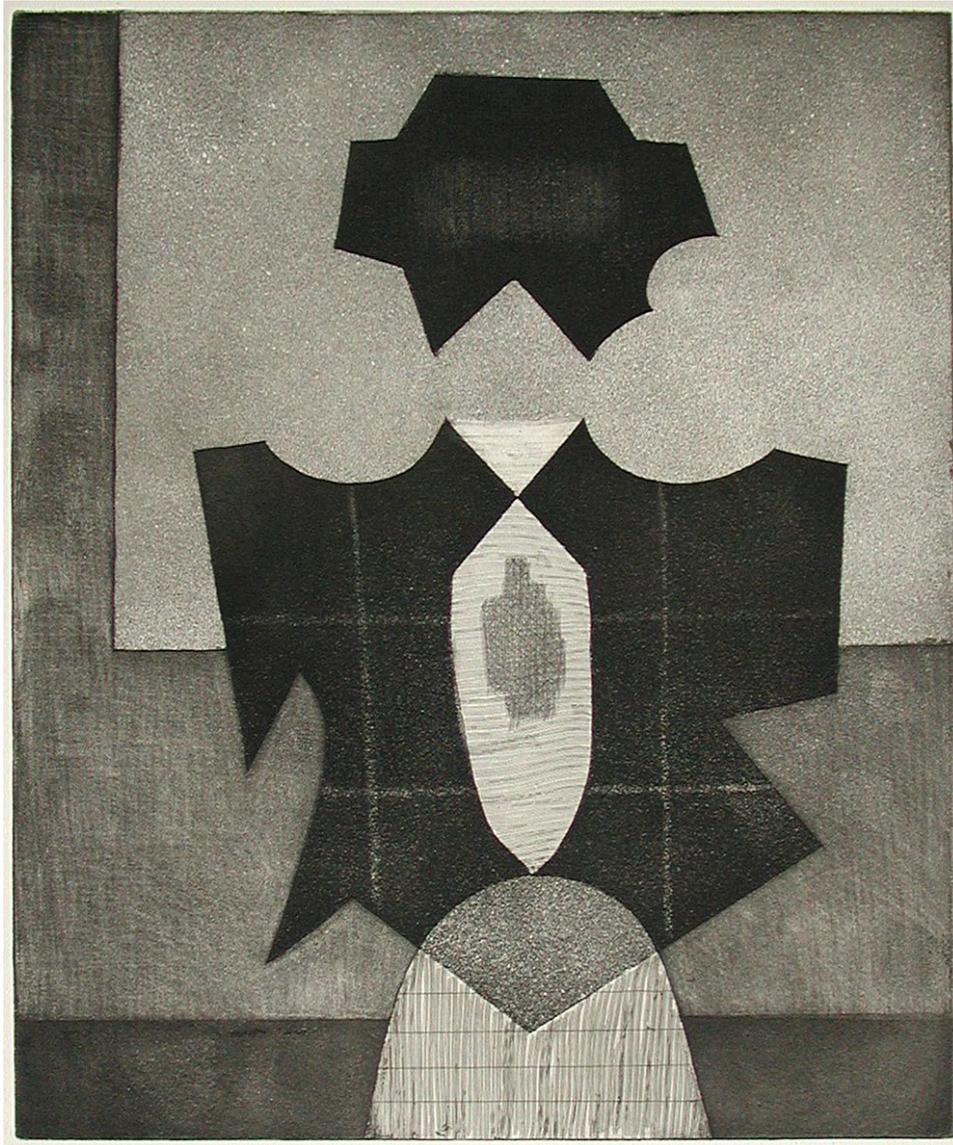
Untitled
1951
gouache on paper
8 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches



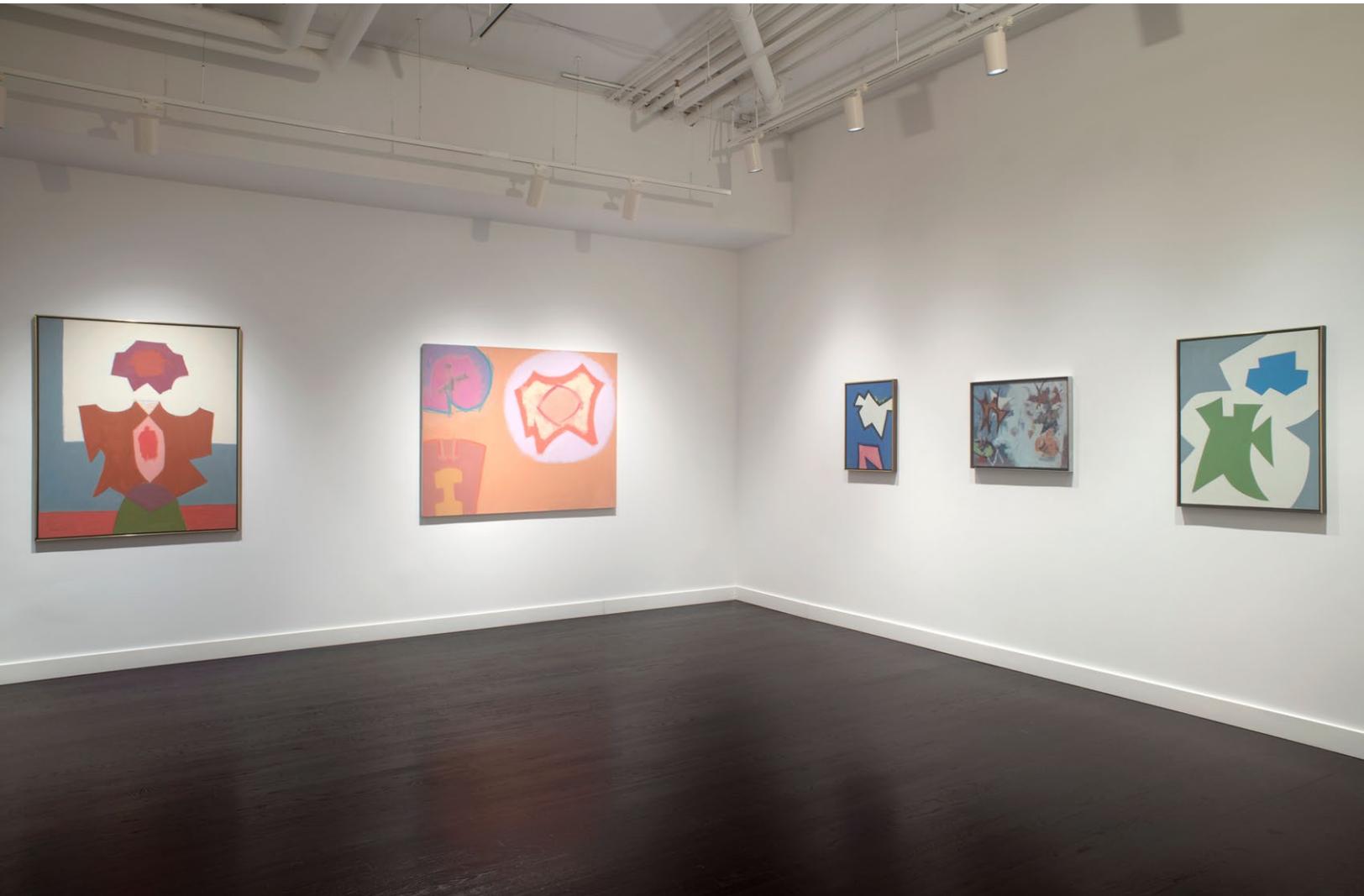
Bestial Hills
1952
gouache, ink on paper
8 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches



Sacrifice, Dec. 1952
1952
gouache, ink on paper
8 3/4 x 11 3/4 inches



Mr. Kafka
1970
aquatint etching and drypoint
19 1/2 x 15 7/8 inches on paper 28 x 19 1/2 inches
edition 25 of 25



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