

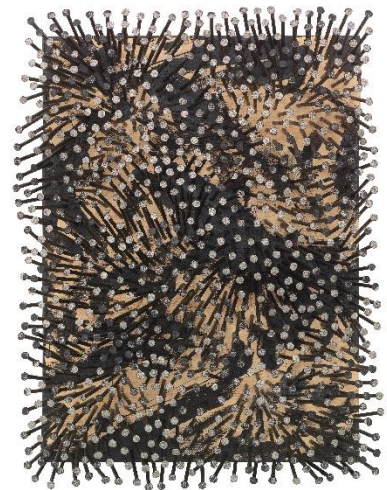
BRAFA 2020 - Omer Tiroche Gallery - Highlights



Serge Poliakoff once declared, 'Painting should be monumental, that is to say, larger than its dimensions'. The artist realised this ideal in *Composition Abstraite* (1959), one of the largest formats of painting the artist ever worked in. Poliakoff had a religious upbringing in Moscow, where he attended church daily and developed a fascination for the power of the strong colours used to portray religious icons. The jewel-like richness of the blue and orange hues in this painting recall this allure and evoke a sense of luminous serenity. The artist's interest in vivid colours also reflects the

influence of colourful abstraction in the work of his contemporaries during the late 1930s, including Kandinsky and Robert and Sonia Delaunay. Poliakoff began creating compositions formed by colour rather than line. The interlocking jigsaw composition seen in this work became characteristic of his style and allows colour to take prominence, whilst entrancing the viewer with its radiance.

Günther Uecker first began using nails in his art in 1956, typically combined with themes of light and shade. The varying positions of the protruding nails create waves of motion, in turn bringing the surface to life. Nails would become archetypal of Uecker's work and are often considered to recall historical symbolism, such as the role they played in religious rituals. They evoke powerful feelings of suffering and can serve as a reminder of the Passions of Christ, as well as the paradox of 'healing by hurting'. This work is part of a series dedicated to Ezra Pound, the poet who was arrested in Italy in 1945 on account of his relations with Mussolini. He was imprisoned in a cage especially made for prisoners on death row, suffering extremely harsh conditions, and was only spared from the death penalty by being declared legally insane. The cold, stabbing nails of Uecker's work reflect Ezra Pound's suffering, whilst the waves of varying light between the groupings perhaps pay homage to his journey of survival.



Biography

Omer Tiroche Gallery focuses on Modern, Post-War and Contemporary art. The gallery was established in 2014 and opened its permanent space in Mayfair in February 2015. Since then, the gallery has held regular solo exhibitions devoted to artists such as Alexander Calder, Victor Vasarely, Niki de Saint Phalle, Pablo Picasso, Franz West and Yayoi Kusama. Complementing the solo shows, the gallery hosts group exhibitions centred around specific historical themes; in 'Prière de Toucher – Homage to Maeght' the gallery recreated the Surrealist movement's third official exhibition, curated by Duchamp and Breton and hosted by Galerie Maeght in 1947; 'Un Art Autre' brought together a selection of works by artists from the second School of Paris of Post-War abstract male and female painters. Alongside the London gallery, Omer Tiroche Gallery also has a non-profit space in Jaffa, Israel, that allows emerging artists, both Israeli and international, to have free rein over what they exhibit and how they choose to present it.

Omer Tiroche Gallery



Serge Poliakoff (Russian-French 1900-1969)

Composition Abstraite, 1959

Oil on canvas

Signed lower left: 'Serge Poliakoff'

130 by 162 cm. (51½ by 63¾ in.)

Provenance

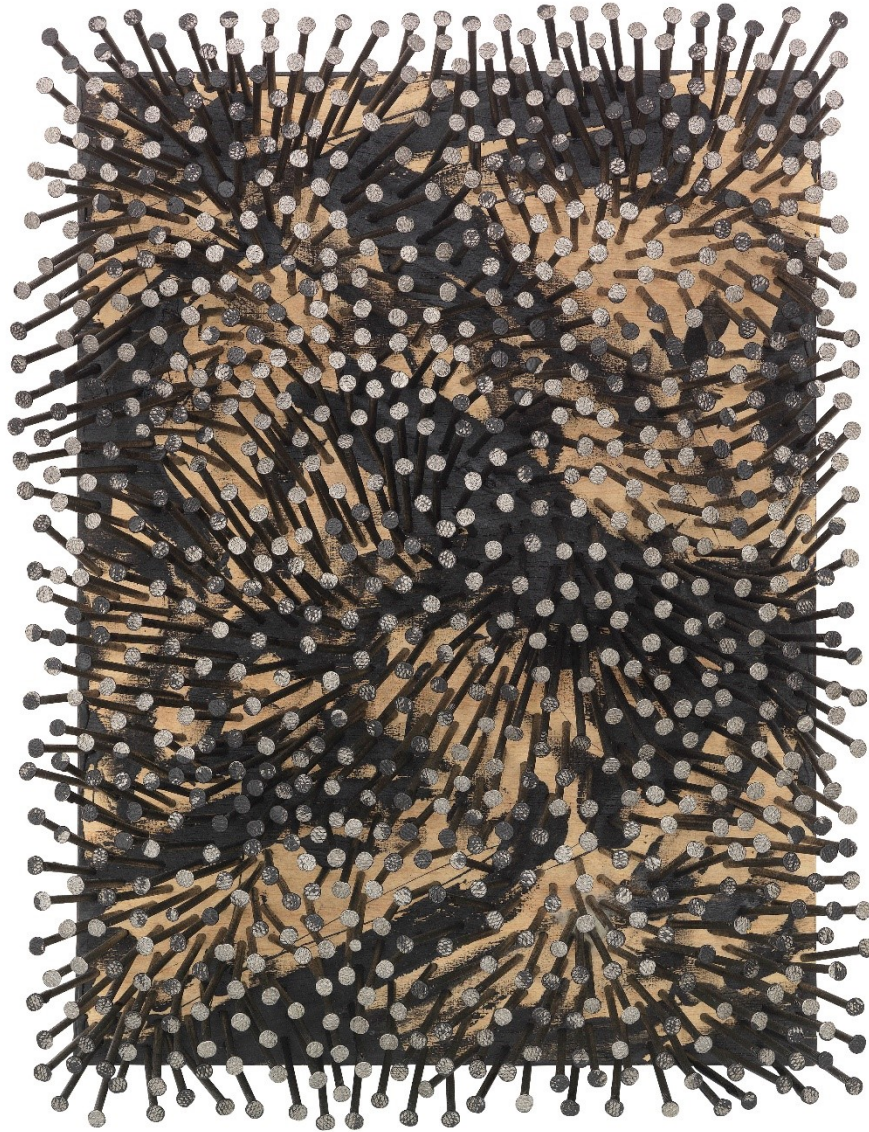
- Galerie Melki, Paris
- Private Collection (acquired from the above)
- Anon., sale: Sotheby's, London, 21st June 2006, lot 48
- Private Collection, London
- Private Collection, Europe

Literature

- A. Poliakoff, *Serge Poliakoff, Catalogue Raisonné*, 1959-1962, vol III, Munich, 2011, no. 59-16, p. 72, illustrated

This work is included in the Catalogue Raisonné

Omer Tiroche Gallery



Günther Uecker (German b.1930)

Feld (For Ezra Pound), 1999

Nails and black paint on wood

Signed, dated and dedicated on the reverse

40 by 30 by 10.5 cm. (15¾ by 11¾ by 4⅛ in.)

Provenance

- Private Collection, Southern Germany
- Anon., sale: Ketterer Kunst, Hamburg, 9th June 2018, lot 902
- Private Collection, Europe

The work is registered in the Uecker Archive under the number GU.99.001 and will be included in the forthcoming Catalogue Raisonné