

Hollis Taggart to Present Exhibition Exploring Acclaimed Artist Knox Martin's Connection to Work of Francisco Goya

Exhibition to Feature a Selection of Martin's Goya-Inspired Drawings, From a Series the Artist Developed Across Multiple Decades

***Knox Martin: Homage to Goya* On View July 8 - August 6, 2021**

Over the course of his seven-decade career, acclaimed artist Knox Martin has engaged with a wide range of artistic movements, from Cubism to Abstract Expressionism to Pop Art, establishing his own distinct style. On July 8, Hollis Taggart will open an exhibition that explores Martin's particular affinity toward Francisco Goya and the ways in which that artist has served as an important source of inspiration for Martin since childhood. The exhibition, titled *Knox Martin: Homage to Goya*, features a selection of drawings from Martin's series, titled *Caprichos*, which the artist has been evolving for several decades. The works reflect the vibrant and energetic approach for which Martin is known, while also capturing the artist's formal and conceptual relationship to Goya. The exhibition will be on view through August 6, 2021, at the gallery's flagship location in Chelsea.

Martin grew up across the street from the Hispanic Society of America in New York, where he would spend hours copying the Spanish artist's etchings and drawings into his notebooks. While Martin felt an artistic and spiritual connection with much of Goya's oeuvre, he was particularly drawn to *Los Caprichos* (1799), Goya's sardonic series of etchings of Spanish society gone mad. As Martin's own practice matured, the incisive energy of Goya's work continued to influence Martin's own painting and drawings. In the 1950s, Martin began a drawing series—*Caprichos*—that served as an homage to the artist that had played such a critical part in his creative development and that also encapsulated his own singular vision.

Martin's *Caprichos* series includes approximately 80 drawings, produced over multiple decades. For *Knox Martin: Homage to Goya*, Hollis Taggart will feature approximately a dozen of the more recent works, produced between 2000-2016. For the series, Martin conjures his own caprices into densely packed and highly exuberant compositions. As has been an important theme across Martin's practice, the drawings feature the abstracted human body, especially the female nude, with portions of faces and bodies interlocked with other organic forms, lines, and imagery. In instances, the viewer perceives animals, bullets, and rays of sunshine. The "scenes" capture an emotional and physical chaos, inspiring a visceral response and encouraging long looking. In a 1954 review in the *New York Times*, this sensation—that much of Martin's work evokes—was described as follows: "Though their designs may appear haphazard...their neo-baroque energy is well under control."

Knox Martin: Homage to Goya follows Hollis Taggart's 2019 presentation of Martin's work, titled *Radical Structures*, which emphasized in particular the artist's paintings from the 1960s and 1970s. The earlier exhibition also included new paintings created by Martin that year, when he was 96 years old. "We are excited to open this forthcoming exhibition of Martin's Goya-inspired drawings as an under-explored aspect of his varied and dynamic practice," said Hollis Taggart. "This presentation builds on our earlier exhibition of Martin's work, which provided audiences with a broad understanding of his stylistic

approach and the spirited quality that pervades all of his painting and drawings. We look forward to sharing this more focused exhibition, which looks at this especially important thread within the wider arc of his career.”

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Born in Barranquilla, Colombia in 1923, Knox Martin moved to New York City in 1927. Since his first solo exhibition in 1954, solo exhibitions of Martin’s work have been presented widely both in the US and abroad, including in France, England, Switzerland, Canada, Spain, and Germany. His work has also been included in significant group presentations, such as *Some Paintings to Consider* (Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, 1964), *Concrete Expressionism* (New York University, New York, 1965), *Large Scale American Paintings* (Jewish Museum, New York, 1967), the *Whitney Annual* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 1967 and 1972), *Synthetic Realism* (Gremillion & Co. Fine Art Inc., Houston, 1986), *Knox Martin: A Painting Exhibition Spanning a Number of Years* (Lighthouse Museum, Tequesta, Florida, 1999), *Pan American Modernism: Avant-Garde Art in Latin America and the United States* (Lowe Art Museum, Miami, 2013), and *The Masters: Art Student League Teachers and their Students* (The Art Students League of New York, 2018). Martin’s work is held in over 40 museums and private collections worldwide. He has received prestigious grants and awards, including most recently the Benjamin West Clinedinst Memorial Award and the French Legion of Honor. Martin has also led a distinguished career in teaching art, including his years at Yale Graduate School of the Arts, New York University, University of Minnesota, and The Art Students League of New York.

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About Hollis Taggart

Founded in 1979, Hollis Taggart presents significant works of American art, showcasing the trajectory of American art movements from the Hudson River School to American Modernism and the Post-War and Contemporary eras. Its program is characterized by a deep commitment to scholarship and bringing to the fore the work of under-recognized artists. The gallery has sponsored several catalogue raisonné projects, most recently for the American Surrealist artist Kay Sage, and has been instrumental in advancing knowledge of such artists as Alfred Maurer, Arthur B. Carles, and more recently, Theodoros Stamos, Marjorie Strider, and Michael (Corinne) West. In the summer of 2019, the gallery announced the formal expansion of its primary market business and focus on the presentation of contemporary work. It continues to expand its roster of contemporary artists, focusing on emerging and mid-career talents. With more than 40 years of experience, Hollis Taggart is widely recognized by collectors and curators for its leadership, expertise, and openness, on matters of art history, and market trends and opportunities. The gallery’s flagship location is in Chelsea, and it also operates a space in Southport, Connecticut.

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