

Press Release

Lynne Drexler  
*The Seventies*  
26 March – 17 May 2025  
Hong Kong

White Cube Hong Kong is pleased to present the world debut of works made during the 1970s by the late American artist Lynne Drexler (1928–99). The exhibition coincides with Art Basel Hong Kong, where the gallery will present the artist's painting *Erratic Water* (1963) at Booth 1C23.

This is the first major presentation of Drexler's work in Asia, and her second exhibition with White Cube since representation of The Lynne Drexler Archive was announced in November 2023. It follows the inaugural show of her work in Europe at Mason's Yard, London, in November 2024.

'Lynne Drexler: The Seventies' comprises boldly coloured paintings and works on paper made between 1970 and 1978, marking the first time works from this era have ever been exhibited. A significant period within her practice, these works were made during a difficult time in Drexler's life, during which time she suffered a mental breakdown and experienced psychosomatic colour-blindness.

Born in 1928 near Newport News, Virginia, Drexler was associated with second-generation Abstract Expressionists. She was visibly influenced by Impressionism, Fauvism and Pointillism, art historical movements that reflect her love of classical music and nature.

Drexler shared the fate of many female artists of the post-war era, who were overshadowed by their male peers and counterparts and are only now being reintegrated into the annals of art history. Although she studied under Hans Hofmann and Robert Motherwell, she remained on the periphery of the art world while her husband, the painter John Hultberg, accrued comparable success and fame.

Following two extended sojourns to Europe in the early 1950s, Drexler made the pivotal decision to move to New York in 1955 and became engaged in the city's vibrant and intellectual art scene. There, over the next decade, she would produce exemplary works of art that were equally formal explorations of colour, form and spatial tension.

## WHITE CUBE

By the mid- to late-1960s, with the popularity of Abstract Expressionism in decline, Drexler's own work had matured into a distinctive, lyrical style of abstract painting, one inspired by the surrounding landscape of her summer home on Monhegan Island, off the coast of Maine.

After being hospitalised due to her breakdown in 1970, Drexler recuperated by watching matinee shows at the Metropolitan Opera where she would draw while listening to performances including *The Ring Cycle* by Richard Wagner. She also greatly admired Wassily Kandinsky and his dictum that visual abstraction is akin to musical notation, and the compositions she created during this period were the closest she came to being non-representational in her practice.

Drexler separated from Hultberg in 1983 and settled permanently on Monhegan Island, where her art began to further incorporate elements of the rugged coastal scenery. Though mostly still undiscovered, in the final two decades of her life the artist became locally renowned by exhibiting in galleries around her home and the nearby mainland.

'Lynne Drexler: The Seventies' celebrates the legacy of an artist who, despite the shifting currents of the art world, never wavered in her desire to create. The exhibition is on view at White Cube Hong Kong from 26 March until 17 May 2025.

In 2026, a travelling retrospective of Drexler's work will originate at the Muscarelle Museum of Art in Virginia, US, a university museum affiliated with the College of William & Mary where the artist took night classes prior to moving to New York to study with Hans Hofmann.

### **For additional press information, interviews or images please contact:**

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### Notes to Editors:

- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists. [whitecube.com](http://whitecube.com)

## W H I T E   C U B E

- Alongside White Cube's global representation of the artist, The Lynne Drexler Archive is represented in the US by Berry Campbell.
- Lynne Drexler (1928–99) was born in Newport News, Virginia, and lived and worked in New York City and Monhegan Island, Maine. Her solo exhibitions include Berry Campbell, New York (2022); Mnuchin Gallery, New York (2022); Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York (2022, 2007, 2002, 1987 and 1986); Monhegan Historical and Cultural Museum and Portland Museum of Art, Maine (2008); Jameson Modern, Portland, Maine (2007); Greenhut Gallery, Portland, Maine (2005); Lupine Gallery, Monhegan Island, Maine (2003 and 1998); Bates College Museum of Art, Lewiston, Maine (2003); Gallery 6, Portland, Maine (1994 and 1989); Judith Leighton Gallery, Blue Hill, Maine (1989); Gallery 127, Portland, Maine (1989); Middlesex College Community College, Piscataway, New Jersey (1984); St. John's University, New York (1984); Aldona Gobuzas Gallery, New York (1983); Veydras Limited, New York (1983); Alonzo Gallery, New York (1975, 1973 and 1971); Nuwana Valley Gallery, Honolulu, Hawaii (1967); Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles (1965); and Tanager Gallery, New York (1961).
- Drexler's work is held in public collections across the US, including the Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois; Bates College, Lewiston, Maine; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine; Greenville County Museum of Art, South Carolina; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York; Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Monhegan Museum, Maine.
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