

MIGNONI

Robert Mangold and Joel Shapiro: Angles in Color

February 26 – May 25, 2019

Mignoni, 960 Madison Avenue, Second Floor, New York



New York, NY – Mignoni Gallery is pleased to present *Robert Mangold and Joel Shapiro: Angles in Color*, an exhibition which explores both artists' interest and continued study in color, form, line, shape, scale, and space. The exhibition includes four of Mangold's plane panel and ring paintings alongside four of Shapiro's abstracted figure sculptures in both wood and bronze.

The reductive geometries explored by Robert Mangold and Joel Shapiro have long aligned them with the Minimalist art movement, yet their respective practices are not strictly exercises in pure formalism. Their intuitive approach to composition and materiality, their distinctive use of color, and their embrace of allegory conveys a Romantic sensibility that humanizes their otherwise angular art.

About the Artists

Born in North Tonawanda, New York in 1937, Robert Mangold began his studies at the Cleveland Institute of Art and subsequently attended Yale University, graduating in 1962. Soon after, Mangold moved to New York, where he worked in the Museum of Modern Art, first as a guard and then in the library. While at the museum, he worked alongside Robert Ryman, Sol LeWitt, Dan Flavin, and the critic and writer, Lucy Lippard. He immersed himself in this group of Minimalist artists, all of whom lived around the Bowery in Lower Manhattan.

Mangold's work creates geometric objects in a variety of monochromatic tones, articulated with graphite stokes on canvas made up of one or various panels. The elegant lines interweave and interlock across the surface of the canvas, often competing with the shape of the support. His distinctive style evolved through the 1960s and 70s, as he began to use Masonite panels to produce different shapes and structures, as seen in the Walls, Areas, and W, V or X series.

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Between 1980 and 1986, the artist produced three groups of dynamic and architectonic paintings entitled XS, +S, and the Frame Paintings. Through the 1990s, the so-called Attic series and Plane/Figure series demonstrated a change in Mangold's palette of colors, with earthier tones which reference the paints of Greek ceramics, while the ellipses and curves evoke the classic shapes of Hellenic ceramics. Most recently, Mangold has continued to explore and interrogate the elements of pictorial composition. With the Ring Paintings Mangold utilizes the void, creating a ring-shaped canvas with a hole in the center.

Mangold has exhibited his work in four different Whitney Biennials at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. His work can be found in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles; Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland, and the Museo Nacional Centro del Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid.

Mangold lives in Washingtonville, New York with his wife Sylvia Plimack Mangold, who is also an artist.

Born in Queens, NY in 1941, Joel Shapiro received both his B.A. and M.A. from New York University following a two-year stint in the Peace Corps in India. Shapiro originally intended to be a physician and studied science as an undergraduate. It was upon his return from India when he decided to pursue a career as an artist.

In the early stages of his career, Shapiro was influenced by the work of artists, such as Donald Judd, Carl Andre, Robert Morris, and Richard Serra. Although his first works are characterized by their small size, Shapiro says that through this work he was trying "to describe an emotional state, my own longing or desire." By the 1980s, he began to work in larger and life-size forms, creating pieces that were still reminiscent of his travels in India. Later, Shapiro began working primarily in wood and bronze to create the large-scale geometric sculptures echoing the dynamism of the human form for which he is best known. Through the human figure, he investigates the very nature of abstraction.

Shapiro has exhibited his work in four different Whitney Biennials at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and he has been the subject of over 160 solo exhibitions and retrospectives internationally. His work can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Tate, London.

Shapiro lives and works in New York City with his wife Ellen Phelan, who is also an artist.

About MIGNONI

Founded by Fernando Mignoni in 2017, the gallery, which is located in the Upper East Side neighborhood of New York, specializes in works by prominent European & American post-war artists with a focus on minimalism.

The gallery advises institutions and private clients in acquiring works by a renowned group of artists including Alexander Calder, John Chamberlain, Eduardo Chillida, Lucio Fontana, Adolph Gottlieb, Donald Judd, Robert Mangold, Agnes Martin, Ed Ruscha, and Rudolf Stingel, among others. In addition, the gallery presents three to four high-quality exhibitions a year.

Mignoni has a 20-year history in the art market. He was previously at Christie's London for nearly a decade before leaving as Director of the Contemporary Art Department in 2007 to join his family's gallery, Galeria Elvira Gonzalez, Madrid. From 2007 to 2017, he organized exhibitions and ran the secondary market program both at the gallery and art fairs.