

# LARRY POONS

## MOMENTUM

YARES ART

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**Opening reception Saturday, September 16, 5:30–7:30pm**



*Sudden Feral* (detail), 2017. Acrylic on canvas, 66 ½ x 177 in. (168.9 x 449.6 cm). Courtesy of the artist and Yares Art, New York

YARES ART is pleased to present Larry Poon's *Momentum*, on view in New York, September 16–October 28, 2017. The exhibition highlights eight recent, large-scale paintings, and four major historical works by Larry Poon, one of the most important abstract painters of the postwar era. *Larry Poon's Momentum* coincides with the artist's eightieth birthday, as Yares Art celebrates the phenomenal achievement of an American original. This is the artist's first exhibition with Yares Art New York.

For the past six decades, Poon's art has been acclaimed for its stylistic diversity as well as its conceptual continuity, in an exploration of color, texture and optical sensation. With undiminished energy, and ambition, Poon today continues to produce compositions of epic scale and prodigious beauty. On view in the show, compelling works such as *Arithmetic* and *Cakewalk* (both 2017) reflect his lifelong devotion to the expressive nuances of light and the emotional possibilities of color. Recent paintings, such as *Sudden Feral*, are clearly the work of a true visionary with more than six decades of experience in composition and color. Here, sweeping expanses of feverish blue tones, painted with fingers and hands as well as brushes, glow within an indeterminate, ethereal space. *Antique* and *St. Gale* are similarly luminous, panoramic scenes, with a spectrum of vivid hues and rhythmic movement.

One of the most influential founders of the Color Field movement in the 1960s, Poon established an international reputation for his consistently dazzling and challenging abstract compositions. While still in his twenties, he became renowned for a series of hard-edge abstract compositions featuring colorful dots and lozenge shapes pulsating against monochrome backgrounds of contrasting tones. *Lee's Retreat* (1963), a prime example of the period, is included in the present exhibition. In subsequent years, Poon adopted looser, more fluid painting techniques, including pouring, staining, and throwing. One of his signature "Vertical Drips" or "Cascade" paintings, *Tantrum II* (1979), is among the highlights of the show. This work—like all of the artist's best efforts, including his most recent paintings—centers on a hypnotic optical play of light and color.

Born in Tokyo in 1937 to American parents, Poon relocated with his family to the United States at a young age, and studied music composition at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Recognizing his greater talent for visual art, he transferred to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where he studied painting. His career soared soon after he moved to New York in the early 1960s.

Larry Poon's work is included in many prominent public and private art collections throughout the world, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Santa Barbara Museum of Art; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; the Tate Modern, London; the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, Netherlands; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven, Connecticut, among other institutions.

*Larry Poon's Momentum* is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by David Ebony and Barry Schwabsky.

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