

# KES ZAPKUS

"I believe I am not making pictures, objects, or societal symbols. This is a departure from traditional aspirations of painting where depiction, narrative, design or process is codified.

My painting is built on a different premise, which is to reflect the contemporary experience of simultaneity and multiplicity. I have tried to create informational fields to be perceived in time and cross-referencing as a parallel to the structures of musical composition."

Kes Zapkus



Traffic, 1976-77, oil, acrylic, silkscreen on panel, 4 oblique panels, 84 x 307 inches

WILLIAM HOLMAN GALLERY 360 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, APT. 8A, NY, NY 10025 O. 212 475 1500 C, 646 286 7254

**BIOGRAPHY** 

Zapkus is a thoroughly American artist with a painting practice deeply rooted in the New York School of Painting, even if his work has long resisted most of the art world's specific grouping categorizations. An individualist and abstract painter with a strong structural bent, his work references social, political, humanist and purely painterly issues. Zapkus received his BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago where he won the Ryerson Foreign Travel Fellowship. He earned an MFA from Syracuse University in 1963.

Zapkus has exhibited in several significant New York and Chicago galleries and museums worldwide. His work has been collected extensively both domestically and internationally by museums, corporate and private collections.

He has held teaching positions at Princeton University, Parsons's School of Design, the Cooper Union, the State University of NY at Stony Brook, and the University of Pennsylvania.

In 2014 the National Gallery of Art in Lithuania hosted a major retrospective exhibition of over 100 works and on this occasion an inclusive monograph "Kestutis Zapkus" was published by the Lewben Art Foundation, with essays by Lucy R. Lippard, Marjorie Welish, Sandra Skurvida, and the artist.



Zapkus' work is deeply grounded in the universe of music and visual residuals from the historical art of painting. Seeking other non-image based attributes in the past art of painting for an essential visual language, Zapkus found resources in Mondrian, Monet, Kandinsky, and Pollock. So began his vision of a complex structural abstraction, rich in reference and communicative power.

As individual passages of notes are the auditory constructs in Bach, Schonberg, Messiaen, so Zapkus' vision often appears in large canvases with 'notations' of thousands non-repetitive passages into a fugue like orientation. These visual fields suggest timeless activity or even a spiritual flow of painterly thought.



Libertango (Piazzolla), 2014, oil, acrylic on cotton, 72 x 36 inches



Primary Rave, 2012, oil, acrylic on cotton, 72 x 36 inches



"Imagine listening to 35 minutes of a Beethoven quartet and retaining in the mind each measure so that the individual elements and the cumulative impact are simultaneously accessible. Looking at a Zapkus painting is like seeing the whole of the quartet while being able to scrutinize each measure and analyze each movement at leisure."

Martica Sawin, Arts Magazine., June 1979



Redress of Julliard Jazz, 2002, oil on latex spray, on cotton, 72 X 60 inches

"Redress of Juilliard Jazz is the most contrapuntal painting of this group. Active allover elements are stated, seldom repeated, and then contradicted by variables. I was very excited by several concerts of Anthony Braxton I had attended. His musical structures were so wild and surprising and felt totally improvisational, while extremely complex. When I learned the improvisations were all planned, written down ahead of time, as was Braxton's practice while at Juilliard, I was very appreciative. I enjoy when reasoning is the undercurrent that guides expression to its resolved identity."

— Kes Zapkus



Pastoral Intimations, 2009, oil, acrylic on cotton, 36 x 36 inches

Pastoral Intimations is a mottled gray-green painting marked by linear and planar passages in an opposing muted rose. It has several references to a Cezanne through touch and pulsation. The diagonals of the grid form a triangular thrust downward, opposite to and yet referential to Mont Sainte Victoire's upward triangulation. The work has the softness of the vegetation and land in a moisture laden atmosphere. The small squares can be seen pictorially as distinct landscape elements, individually or in groups. In sum, the work is a little fugue of oblique, vertical and horizontal movements of associative landscape references.



Mapping Cobalt Tides, 2015, oil and acrylic on cotton, 2015, 30 x 40 inches



"In a remembrance of a visit to the Pinacoteca Nazionale of Siena, I was struck by the procession of gilded Gothic works with bright blue and red images depicting exultation and torment, often simultaneously. Gruesome executions of martyrs and saints, in passive torture or holly acceptance, gilded to convey glorious death. This is a sensibility of surrender to transcendence from earthly doom to heavenly bliss; yet the spiritual turns materialistic when it must be embellished in gold and jewels. This is a painting about mysteries of dazzle."

-- Kes Zapkus



Sienese Sainted Gold, 2015, oil and acrylic on canvas, 2015, 48 x 36 inches



"I would prefer for my work to first be seen in accord with my intentions for it. I believe my specific vision carries the prime expressive potential of my work and feel that this is the primary lens that it should be viewed through. The work should occupy the gaze of the viewer for an extended period of time, undergoing a process of consideration similar to that which I undertook when organizing the piece. It is the viewer's subsequent right to give the work a life outside of this base of comprehension."

--Kes Zapkus



Rehearsal (Piazzolla), 2014, oil, acrylic on cotton, 40 x 30 inches



"Since DNA is a current means of deciphering essential physical histories, I figuratively poked around the ingredients of Ingres' fabulously glamorous painting. The proportions of the flashy blue (dress) and gold silks, the skin pinks and beiges, rich green-black ground are atomized into a play of elements."

--Kes Zapkus



DNA of Ingres' Princesse de Broglie, 2016, oil on cotton, 70 x 36 inches



"This is an olive green military space with many flashy events dispersed to suggest interactions in an arena. The large Park Avenue space has been used for grand artistic and narcissistic self-presentation events. The suggestion here is of the glitter and gloom as sensations being foisted on a public hungry for Art as entertainment."

--Kes Zapkus



Exhibitionist at the Armory, 2016, oil, acrylic on cotton, 72 x 60 inches



"The filmic drama and romance of Australia's outback sites, plus the notion of food, cloth, and flesh in aboriginal association is ominously suggestive. The harsh gridded branding, as negation or cancellation, symbolically allows the painting to conjure bitter-sweetness as a kind of resolution."

--Kes Zapkus



Cancelled Picnic in the Outback, 2016, oil, acrylic on cotton, 36 x 60 inches



"This is a fantasy quest for a place of tranquility, a place and a hypothetical abstract means to arrive there. Six luminous, landscape-like squares hover over the area as superimposed lenses, overtaking an underlying world of our travails and tribulations."

- Kes Zapkus



Viewfinder for Elysium, 2016, oil, acrylic on cotton, 30 x 60 inches



"This work refers to the spiraling effects typical of the New York experience: maps of Manhattan streets and waterways, neighborhoods, flights over JFK airport, organizing charts and an hourglass, a reference to the passing of time. These are all enmeshed in a vortex of sensations as the irresistible magnetism of this great metropolis."

— Kes Zapkus

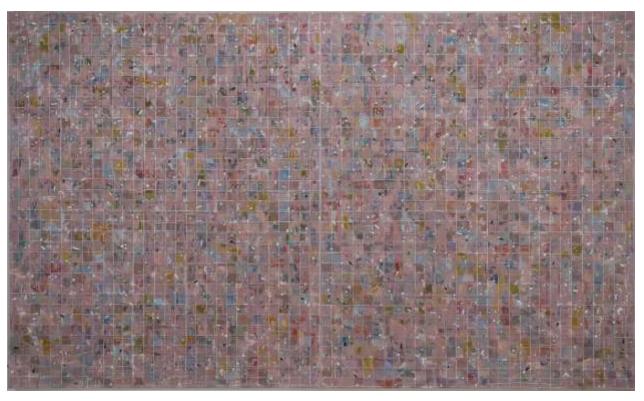


Vortex Manhattan, 2015, oil and acrylic on cotton, 60 x 72 inches



"The complex, architectural, multi-figured compositions like the "Feast in the House of Levi" by Paolo Veronese in the Accademia in Venice are the inspirational source for this work. This abstract visual fugue of muted color passages and linear directional thrusts aim to achieve a gently pulsating symphonic sensation in endless variation and inflection as measures in a complex musical score."

- Kes Zapkus



Feast of Veronese, 2015, oil and acrylic on cotton, 72 x 120 inches



# **Drawings and Works on Paper**

"The work should fill the gaze of the viewer for an extended period of time, to go through a consideration process similar to the organization the work had undergone. The work tries to convey a thinking and a feeling process of human and world reference spread out before one's eyes."

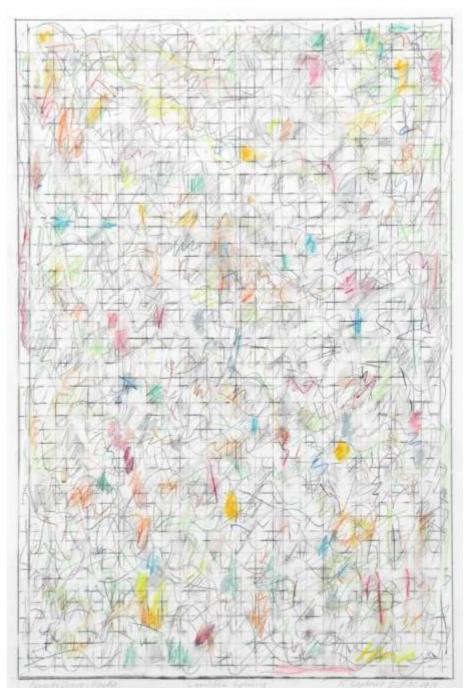
--Kes Zapkus



Fake Plans for Pompeii, 1993, oil crayon, pencil on paper, 18 x 25 inches



Earth, Sea, Squalls, Rocks, Clouds, 2014, acrylic, pencil on lithograph, 22.5 x 28.5 inches



Scribble Spring, 2014, gouache, pencil, crayon, 26.5 x 19 inches



Timed Implosion, 2014, pencil and acrylic on canvas, 28 x 24 1/4 inches



# Kes Zapkus

# **EDUCATION**

1963 MFA, Syracuse University, New York

1960 BFA, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Ryerson Foreign Travel Fellowship

1938 Born, Lithuania (as an American citizen)

## **AWARDS**

1996 The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Grant
1979 NEA
1968 CAPS

1964 Second Annual Chicago Arts Festival Invitational Exhibition, First Prize

# **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2015	Kes Zapkus: Paintings and Drawings, William Holman Gallery, New York,
	NY
	Kes Zapkus Paintings, Sla307, New York, NY
2014	Kestutis Zapkus: Painting Retrospective (1968-2014), The National Gallery of
	Art, Lithuania
2013-2014	Recent Paintings, OK Harris Works of Art, New York, NY
2011	Recent Paintings, OK Harris Works of Art, New York, NY
2008	Big Paintings 1975–2007, OK Harris Works of Art, New York, NY
2007	Mindset-Timeset Variations, Art Sites, Riverhead, NY, paintings and drawings
2005	Selected Paintings 1993–2005, Icehouse Gallery, Greenport, NY
2001	Paintings & Drawings 1998-2000, Art Sites, Greenport, NY
1995	Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
1989	Children of War, Museum of Art of Lithuania, exhibited in Vilnius, Klaipeda,
	and Kaunas, L.T.S.R.
	Gallery of the L.T.S.R. Mission, Moscow, U.S.S.R
	John Weber Gallery, New York
1988	John Weber Gallery, New York
1984	Children of War, John Weber Gallery, New York
1982	Kes Zapkus: Notation/Progression, Hecksher Museum, Huntington, New
	York
	John Weber Gallery, New York
1981	Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, retrospective
1979	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
	John Weber Gallery, New York
1978	Galerie Darthea Speyer, Paris
	Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, retrospective
1977	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
1975	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, works on paper
	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, paintings
1973	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
1971	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
1968	Stable Gallery, New York
1966	Kazimir Gallery, Chicago
1965	Kazimir Gallery, Chicago
1962	Gres Gallery, Chicago

Ciurlionis Gallery, Chicago



# **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2016	Autumn Exhibition, William Holman Gallery, New York, NY
	Winter Show, William Holman Gallery, New York NY
2015	Annual Summer Exhibition
2014-2015	Sensory Impact, American Abstract Artists, Morgan Stanley International,
2011 2010	Purchase, New York
2013	39 Great Jones, Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich, Switzerland
2013	Abstraction (Abstraction to the Power of Infinity), Crane Arts, Philadelphia,
2011	PA
	American Abstract Artists 75th Anniversary, OK Harris Works of Art, NY
	American Abstract Artists International/75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Galerie oqbo and
	Deutscher
•040	Künstlerbund, Berlin, Germany
2010	American Abstract Artists International, L'astrazione vista da un cosmopolita,
	Otrano, Italy
2008	American Abstract Artists, The Painting Center, NY
	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Galerie Darthea Speyer, Paris
2006	Group Show, O.K. Harris Works of Art, New York, N.Y.
2001	Structures, The Workspace, New York
	The Faculty Show 2001, Staller Center, SUNY at Stony Brook
	Structures, Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa
	Difficult Subjects, Art Sites, Greenport, NY
	Structures, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
2000	25th Anniversary Exhibition, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
1999	The Faculty Show 1999, Staller Center, SUNY at Stony Brook
1998	Footfalls, Greenport, NY (site-specific, large scale, bamboo sculpture)
1995	20th Anniversary Exhibition 1974-1994, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
	In Small Dimensions, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
1994	Civic Virtues, National Bank Plaza, Charlotte, NC
	The Faculty Show 1994, Staller Center, SUNY at Stony Brook
	One Hundred Hearts, 45 Greene Street, New York
1992	Stuyvesant Foundation Collection, Sevilla, Spain
	Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary (Bryan Montgomery Collection,
	London, England: Zapkus paintings)
	Gallery of Art, Novosibirsk, Russia (Bryan Montgomery Collection, London,
	England: Zapkusdrawings and prints)
	The Open Work, John Good Gallery, New York
	The Exuberant '80's, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
1991	Arco, Madrid
1,,,1	Art on Paper, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina at
	Greensboro
	Pictures for an Exhibition, The Richard Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh,
	Scotland
	The Bryan Montgomery Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary
1990	The Grid: Organization and Idea, Ben Shahn Galleries, William Paterson
1990	College of New Jersey
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1989	Sightings, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York & Rubelle and Norman
	Schafler Gallery, Brooklyn; 1988-1989 toured in Spain and Portugal under the
	auspices of the Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos
1007	Belief in Paint, Usdan Gallery, Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont
1987	Group Exhibition, Exhibition Palace, Vilnius, Lithuania
	Group Exhibition, Cooper Union School of Art, New York



1986 Comino a Cuba, Museo Universitario del Chopo, Mexico City, Mexico Gallery Group, John Weber Gallery, New York 2nd Biennal de la Havana, Centro Vifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba Law and Order, Leo Castelli Gallery, John Weber Gallery, and Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York 1985 Gallery Group, John Weber Gallery, New York 1984 Artists Call Against Intervention in Central America, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York Gallery Group, John Weber Gallery, New York Maximalism, Tweed Gallery, New Jersey Art as Social Conscience, Bard College, New York Labor Intensive Abstractions, organized by P. S. 1 at The Clocktower, New York 1983 Terminal New York, Brooklyn Army Terminal, Brooklyn Recent Acquisitions in Contemporary Art, Part One, The Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh Christmas Invitational, AIR Gallery, New York 1982 Ten Artists from New York, Sunny Savage Gallery, Boston Drawing - New Directions, Summit Art Center, Summit, New Jersey Zero Nuclear, Parson School of Design, New York 1981 Drawings, (benefit - Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts), Leo Castelli Gallery, New York Group Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York Peter Stuyvesant Collection, The Provencial Beijnhof, Hasselt, Belgian Paula Cooper Gallery, New York 1979 Art on Paper 1979, Weatherspoon Art Gallery, University of North Carolina, Greensboro 1978 Project Rebuild, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York Group Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York 1977 Paintings, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York Drawings of the 70's, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago Critics' Choice, Lowe Art Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, and Munson Williams Proctor Institute, Utica, New York Contemporary Collection, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut Drawings and Prints--New York, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York Art for Your Collection, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence 1976 Group Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York Approaching Painting: Part Three, Hallswalls, Buffalo, New York Group Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, Los Angeles Fortieth Annual Exhibition, Butler Art Institute, Youngstown, Ohio Perspective '76, Freedman Art Gallery, Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania 1975 Painting Endures, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston Spring Group Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York Drawings, Dootson-Calderhead Gallery, Seattle Drawings, Tyler School of Art, Philadelphia A Change of View, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut Recent Work, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont



1974	Spring Group Exhibition, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York  Painting and Sculpture Today, 1974, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis  Painting and Sculpture Today, 1974, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati Fall Group Exhibition, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
	Vera List Selects, Greenwich Library, Greenwich, Connecticut Drawings and Other Work, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
1973	Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
	33rd Biennial Exhibition, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
	New American Abstract Painting, Northern Illinois University Art Gallery, DeKalb
	Options 73/30: Recent Works of Art, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati
	Art for Your Collection, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
1972	New York '72, Paula Cooper Gallery Exhibition, Greenwich, Connecticut
	New York Painting, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York
	New York Abstract Painting, Madison Art Center, Madison, Wisconsin
	Gallerie Simone Stern, New Orleans
1971	Three-man show, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, (with Ruda and Diao)
	Work on Paper, 31st Annual Exhibition of the Society of Contemporary Art,
	The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
	Paula Cooper Gallery Exhibition, Windham College, Putney, Vermont
1070	Art for Your Collection, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
1970	Painting and Sculpture Today, The Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis
	Critics' Choice, New York Council on the Arts, touring exhibition
1969	Drawing Exhibition, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York Painting Annual, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
1909	Eight Painters, Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts
1968	Some Younger American Painters and Sculptors, The Museum of Modem Art,
1700	New York (touring exhibition)
1965	Invitational Exhibition, Society of Contemporary Art, The Art Institute of
1705	Chicago, Chicago
	Invitational Exhibition, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb
1964	Signal: Six Artistes Americains de Paris et d'Amsterdam, Centre Culturel
	Americain, Paris
1958	Chicago and Vicinity, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
	Hyde Park Art Center, Hyde Park, Illinois
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## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

<u>Kestutis Zapkus, Painting and Drawing</u>, (monograph, in English and Lithuanian), Laima Kreivyte, editor, Lewben Art Foundation, Vilnius, Lithuania, 2014, pp. 1-231, ill. (includes essays by Lucy R. Lippard, Marjorie Welish, Sandra Skurvida)

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Baro, Gene. Way of Color, 33rd Biennial Exhibition, (catalogue), Corcoran Gallery of Art,

Washington, D.C., 1973, pp. 28-29

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Lubell, Ellen, review, Arts Magazine, March 1975, p. 14

Frank, Peter, review, Soho Weekly News, Dec. 6, 1975, p. 10

<u>A Change of View</u>, (catalogue), The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, 1975, (ill)

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Kaplan, Patricia, review, Art in America, Sept. 1975, pp. 93-94

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<u>Perspective '76</u>, (catalogue), Freedman Art Gallery, Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1976

<u>Critics' Choice</u>, (catalogue), Lowe Art Gallery, Syracuse, and Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, Utica, New York, 1977

<u>Fall 1977: Contemporary Collection</u>, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, 1977, (ill)

Lubell, Ellen, review, Arts Magazine, 1977, pp.35-36

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### **FILM**

Gambone, Jerry, <u>With Paint on Canvas: Kes Zapkus</u>, 16mm documentary film, 42 minutes, color, released 1980, distributed by The American Federation of Arts Film Program at The Museum of Modern Art, New York

### INSTITUTIONS AND COLLECTIONS

Joseph Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. JP Morgan Chase & Co., New York, NY Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, Tennessee
Neuberger Museum, S.U.N.Y. Purchase, New York
Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY
Woodhall Hospital, New York

Frank Porter, Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Vera List, New York, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Walter N. Thayer, New York
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Diker, New York, NY
Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Smith, Lake Forest, Illinois
Bryan Montgomery, London, U.K.
Museum Boymans-van Beunignen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Baxter Laboratories, Deerfield, Illinois
McCrory Corporation, New York, NY
Amerada Hess Corporation, Woodbridge, New Jersey

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rubinstein, New York, NY Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Lewis, Richmond, Virginia United California Bank, Los Angeles, California Robert Chavez, Cincinnati, Ohio



Vesti Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts

Herbert Kohl/William Ornstein Investments, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mrs. Herbert Manning, Illinois

Prudential Insurance, Newark, New Jersey

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bennett, New York, NY

First International Bank, Houston, Texas

JP Morgan Chase & Co (Formerly Chemical Bank) New York, NY

Amoco Production Co., Denver, Colorado

Exxon Corporation, New York, NY

Mr. William Ching, Seattle, Washington

Robert Taxin, New York, NY

Southeast Banking Corporation, Florida

Ronald Lauder, New York, NY

The Vilnius Museum of Fine Arts, Vilnius, Lithuania

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Moran, Latrobe, Pennsylvania

John Lane, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### S.I. Newhouse, New York, NY

Hillman and Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

H.J. Heinz Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

The Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Goldring, Woodbury, New York

The Stuyvesant Foundation, Belgium

Marvin Sackner, Miami Beach, Florida

David Workman, Connecticut

Jerry Gambone, New York, NY

The Gallery of Art, Novosibirsk, Russia

Alan Patricoff Associates, New York, NY

The NYNEX Corporation, New York, NY

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York

Vilnius Museum of Fine Arts, Lithuania

Adomas Mickevicius, Burlingame, Calif.

Ronald Fagan, New York, NY

Mrs. Margo Maxwell Macdonald, London, U.K.

Povilas Debesis, New York, NY

Donald Shannon, Toronto, Canada

Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art, Florida

University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Vilius Kavaliauskas, Vilnius, Lithuania

Lithuanian Diaspora Art Foundation (Lietuvos Iseivijos Dailes Fondas), Vilnius Lithuania

Rolandas Valiunas, Vilnius, Lithuania

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