

# GAGOSIAN GALLERY

5 September 2012

PRESS RELEASE

**GAGOSIAN GALLERY**

6-24 BRITANNIA STREET

LONDON WC1X 9JD

GALLERY HOURS:

T. 020.7841.9960

F. 020.7841.9961

Tue–Sat: 10:00am–6:00pm



## **CY TWOMBLY: *The Last Paintings*** **CY TWOMBLY: *A Survey of Photographs 1954–2011***

Thursday, 6 September–Saturday, 29 September 2012

Opening reception: Thursday, September 6th, from 6 to 8 pm

In tribute to the late Cy Twombly, Gagosian Gallery will present his last paintings, together with sixty-six of his photographs.

The eight untitled paintings are closely related to the *Camino Real* group that inaugurated Gagosian Paris in 2010. The inimitable, exuberant paintwork and bold, intense colors typify the freedom with which Twombly worked, never restricted to a single reference. Even in the face of his impending death, their elegiac power, vivid palette, and ardent gestures pulse with the energies of the new.

The intimate photographs range from early studio impressions taken in the 1950s to a group of landscapes taken in St Barths last year. Since 2008, major exhibitions have been held at FOAM Amsterdam, Museum Brandhorst, Munich and the Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels; however this is the first time that this lesser known aspect of Twombly's oeuvre has been presented in such depth in the U.K.

Twombly remains one of the world's most revered contemporary artists, whose central and ongoing relevance to the art of the present is attested to by a stream of recent survey exhibitions in leading international institutions. Since the opening of the first Gagosian Gallery in New York in the mid-eighties, Twombly has been a cornerstone of the gallery. He made many exhibitions there over the last twenty-five years, each one as surprising and memorable as the last, from the *Bolsena Paintings* (1990) to *The Coronation of Sesostris* (2001) to *Lepanto* (2002), *Bacchus* (2006), and *The Rose* (2009). *Ten Paintings and a Sculpture* (2004), *Three Notes for Salalah* (2008), *Leaving Paphos Ringed with Waves* (2009), and *Camino Real* (2010) inaugurated new galleries in London, Rome, Athens, and Paris respectively.

This exhibition opened in Los Angeles earlier this year and travelled to Hong Kong. Following the London exhibition, it will conclude at Gagosian Gallery Madison Avenue in New York.

(Continue to page 2)

A fully illustrated catalogue of the paintings accompanies the exhibition, with essays by Achim Hochdörfer, curator of "Cy Twombly: States of Mind" at Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien in 2009; curator Julie Sylvester, and a photo essay by Sally Mann. A fully illustrated catalogue of the photographs with an essay by Edmund de Waal, author of *The Hare with the Amber Eyes*, is also available.

Photographs of Twombly taken by Robert Rauschenberg in the 1950s will be on view at Gagosian Gallery Davies Street, London, 6–29 September 2012.

**Cy Twombly** (1928–2011) was born in 1928 in Lexington, Virginia. He studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (1947–49); the Art Students League, New York (1950–51); and Black Mountain College, North Carolina (1951–52). In the mid-1950s, following travels in Europe and Africa, he emerged as a prominent figure among a group of artists working in New York that included Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns. In 1968, the Milwaukee Art Center mounted his first retrospective. This was followed by major retrospectives at the Kunsthaus Zürich (1987) travelling to Madrid, London and Paris; the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1994) (travelling to Houston, Los Angeles, and Berlin) and the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich (2006). In 1995, the Cy Twombly Gallery opened at The Menil Collection, Houston, exhibiting works made by the artist since 1954. The European retrospective "Cy Twombly: Cycles and Seasons" opened at the Tate Modern, London in June 2008, with subsequent versions at the Guggenheim Bilbao and the Museum of Modern Art in Rome in 2009. Recent exhibitions include "Cy Twombly: The Natural World, Selected Works 2000-2007," The Art Institute of Chicago (2009) and "Sensations of the Moment," the Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, (2009). In 2010, his permanent site-specific painting, *Ceiling* was unveiled in the Salle des Bronzes at the Musée du Louvre. At the same time he was made a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur by the French government.

For further information please contact the gallery at [london@gagosian.com](mailto:london@gagosian.com) or at +44.207.841.9960.