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BARRON'S
PENTA

Donald Marron's Collection of Works on Paper Heads to the Hamptons

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Paul Thek's While there is time, let's go out and feel everything, 1988, acrylic on newspaper. © Estate of George Paul Thek. Courtesy the Donald B. Marron Family Collection, Acquavella Galleries, Gagosian, and Pace Gallery.

Art lovers waiting for a glimpse of Donald B. Marron's collection of modern and contemporary masterworks will get a chance beginning Wednesday, when nearly 40 works-on-paper will be shown at Pace Gallery's new space in East Hampton, New York.

The works represent a slice of a vast collection of more than 300 works that Pace as well as Acquavella Galleries and Gagosian are selling on behalf of the Marron family. Marron, the chairman and CEO of PaineWebber for two decades who was known for his skills as a financier and as an art collector, died last December.

These three global galleries had surprised the art world in February by announcing they would jointly handle the sale of the collection—worth a reported estimate of about \$400 million—instead of one of the major auction houses.

Initial plans called for a possible May exhibition at Pace and Gagosian's Chelsea galleries in Manhattan exploring Marron's legacy and extensive collecting over decades.

That show, postponed because of the Covid-19 crisis, is now expected to take place sometime in 2021, with timing contingent on the course of the pandemic and New York regulations, says

Pace senior director Samanthe Rubell. It will include works from the family collection as well as loans from institutions, Rubell says.



Brice Marden, Butterfly Wings, 2005, ink on paper. ©2020 Brice Marden/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Courtesy the Donald B. Marron Family Collection, Acquavella Galleries, Gagosian, and Pace Gallery

“We want to be able to share the exhibition with as wide of an audience as possible, given the incredible and unique quality and shared experience of the works on view,” she says. “We also want to be sure we can secure and transport the loans we will be exhibiting to show the breadth of the collection in a safe manner.” A book by Phaidon Press will be published alongside the exhibition.

The Marron collection is being co-presented by all three galleries at Pace’s new, but temporary, space in the Hamptons will include sketches and studies as well as paint and pastel pieces by top artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, many of which are being shown for the first time, according to the statement. The value ranges from \$100,000 to \$3 million.

Among works for sale are two drawings by Brice Marden, including *Butterfly Wings*, 2005, and two works by Jasper Johns, including *Two Paintings*, 2006. There are also two plant drawings from Ellsworth Kelly: *Burdock*, 1969, and *Wild Grape*, 1960. As the galleries said, Kelly’s plant drawings “not only informed the artist’s early paintings but are also the basis for his later work.”

A presentation of Ed Ruscha’s drawings will also be on view, including *Honk*, 1964, which is among his first to feature language. The focus on Ruscha also includes several of his artist books, including *Twentysix Gasoline Stations*, 1963, and *Some Los Angeles Apartments*, 1965.

Works from modern artists such as Henri Matisse, Raoul Dufy, and Fernand Léger also are in the show.

Pace has been focusing on short-term exhibitions in the East Hampton space since opening last month. The program includes solo shows by artists new to Pace, including Torkwase Dyson and Sonia Gomes. New sculptures by Arlene Shechet go on view Aug. 22-30.