



Helen Khal_Untitled_Oil on canvas_25x30 cm

“QUIET SEDUCTION” by Helen Khal

TUESDAY, February 3, 2015 | 6-9 pm

Mark Hachem proudly invites you to the opening of Helen Khal's exhibition

**A talk about the artist will take place at the gallery
Thursday February 5 @ 7pm
with Nayla Tamraz, Cesar Nammour and Nada Awar Jarrar.**

“Each Color has its own climate, creates its own particular world: inviolate, each color speaks with quiet seduction.” Helen Khal

Helen Khal began painting at the age of twenty-one, and studied painting at the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, ALBA, and at the Art Students League in New York. Encouraged by the Lebanese artist Aref Rayess and others, Khal held her first individual exhibition in 1960 in Galerie Alecco Saab in Beirut. As her body of work grew, she gained international recognition, presenting in the Biennales of Alexandria and Sao Paolo, and having shows as far afield as Jamaica and the US.

Helen Khal’s work transcends careers, years and periods. “Both an abstract and figurative painter, she began as an impressionist, moved through a period of neo-cubism and abstract expressionism, and later arrived at pure, non-objective, color field abstractions. Helen does not draw with line, but lets color establish the definition of line. Her paintings are infused with light, tonalities, and harmonies. Her colors breath, vibrate, have a life of their own.” Cesar Nammour.

“Quiet seduction” is an encounter with the weight and relationships of Khal’s colors. To feel the spatiality of her lines, to float along with her weightless geometric forms, is to interact with her small format paintings. Yet there is more to Khal’s depth. A maverick, a prodigious woman of multiple talents ahead of her time, she took to the arts from varying perspectives. Teacher, writer, art critic, and artist, in 1963 she established and directed Lebanon's first permanent art gallery, Gallery One. While producing her own works, Khal regularly published articles on contemporary art in the Arab world, lectured internationally, and taught painting. Helen Khal lived for her art, but never lived from her art. Consequently, she earned her living as a professional writer and editor. The exhibition will run until the 18th of February 2015

Helen Khal Biography

1923- Born, Pennsylvania, USA

1946- Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, Beirut, Lebanon

1949- Art Student's League, New York USA

Individual exhibitions:

1960- Galerie Alecco Saab, Beirut, Lebanon

1965- Galerie Trois Feuilles d'Or, Beirut Lebanon

1968- Galerie Manoug, Beirut, Lebanon

1969- First National Bank, Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA

1972,1974, 1975- Contact Art Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon

1975- Bolivar Gallery, Kingston, Jamaica.

Biennales of Alexandria and Sao Paulo.

Beginning **1966-** Regularly published articles on contemporary art in Lebanon and the Arab world in regional media. Eighty-two articles were published posthumously in the book "RESONANCES", with the artists' biographies and 650 illustrations.

1975- Wrote "The Woman Artist in Lebanon" (made possible a grant in 1975 from the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World and first published in 1987), the first book to address the subject of Arab women artists.

1975- Tour of twenty-two universities across the United States, lecturing on art in the Arab world.

Professor of painting at the American University of Beirut and at the Lebanese American University.

2009- Deceased, Beirut, Lebanon.



Helen Khal_Nude_Gouache on paper_45x30 cm

The exhibition will be viewed at the gallery until february 18