

CHRISTIE'S

PRESS RELEASE | NEW YORK
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10 JUNE 2021

CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK PRESENTS

GLORIA KLEIN/ BEAUTIFUL / STRUCTURES

SPECIAL EXHIBITION ON VIEW 17–30 JUNE
AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER



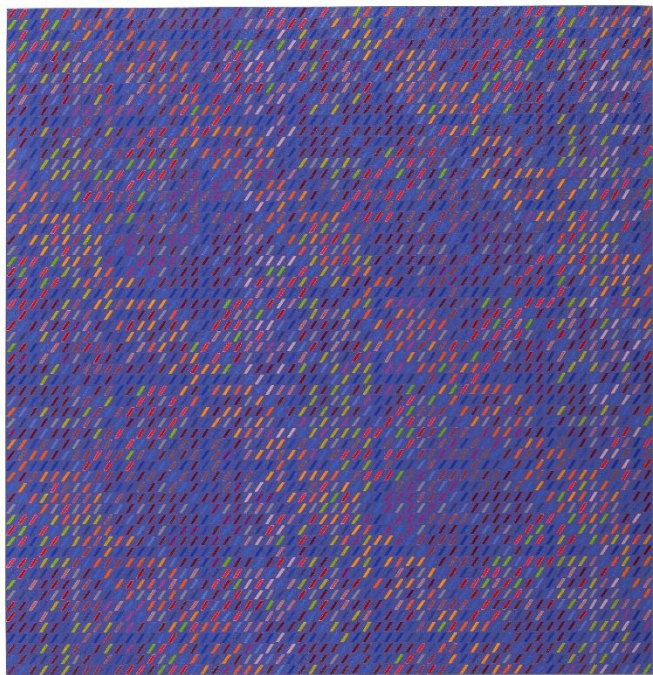
*Gloria Klein in her Chinatown studio, 1982. Photograph by Geoffrey Biddle.
© Geoffrey Biddle.*

"I approach painting as a puzzle. I look at the canvas and try to balance the new surface by adding additional lines and geometric forms. And my choice of colors helps to balance forms with a new surface." – Gloria Klein

NEW YORK – Christie's New York is pleased to present a special selling exhibition of paintings by **New York-based artist Gloria Klein**, on view in the galleries at Rockefeller Center from 17-30 June. The first major solo show in New York dedicated to Klein's works from the 1970's, [*Beautiful Structures*](#) recognizes the seminal role Klein played in organizing ground-breaking lesbian artists' awareness initiatives in SoHo and the Lower East Side in the 1970's. An artist central to the *Pattern & Decoration* movement, which has seen a renewal in interest over recent years, Klein's work was featured in the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art's *With Pleasure: Pattern and Decoration in American Art* catalogue in 2019 and the Blanton Museum of Art's *Expanding Abstraction* exhibition in the fall of 2020. Klein's work was also prominently featured in *A Lesbian Show*—curated by Harmony Hammond in 1978 at 112 Greene Street Workshop—which is widely considered to be the first important lesbian art exhibition. As part of Christie's celebration of **LGBT Pride month**, *Beautiful Structures* at Christie's showcases the extraordinary talent of this newly rediscovered artist.

Sara Friedlander, Christie's Deputy Chairman of 21st Century Art, remarked, *"Like so many women artists whose work did not neatly align with the predominant artistic trends, Gloria Klein struggled to gain recognition in the era in which she was making art. Christie's is so pleased to provide an opportunity for collectors to experience Gloria's work and learn more about the decades-long career of this influential artist."*

"The 15 works included in Beautiful Structures demonstrate Klein's Minimalist, Conceptual and systems-based practice," said **April Richon Jacobs, Independent Art Advisor and Curator** of the exhibition. *"Encountering Gloria's hatch-mark paintings in person imparts a profound intimacy, where the slightly-raised surface of each individual mark drives home the intricate, meticulous, and almost instinctual process of their creation."*



GLORIA KLEIN, *Untitled (NYC 16)*, painted in 1976.

Among her myriad of influences, Klein recalls her father's career as a wallpaper hanger as having a formative influence on her work. She also took classes with the Conceptual artist Robert Barry at Hunter College in the early 1970's. Barry encouraged her to think about the invisible systems through which the larger world around us is organized, Richon Jacobs writes in an essay for the exhibition. While at Hunter, Gloria also was introduced to the phenomenological possibilities of color and its relationships by the artist Robert Swain. Swain was a longtime member of the "Hunter Color School," whose artists took a meticulous, scientific approach to color by investigating how it is visually perceived.

As a woman and lesbian, Klein often felt like an 'outsider', though her work was included in many of the early, seminal *Pattern & Decoration* shows in New York in the 1970s, including *Pattern Painting* at P.S.1 in November of 1977.

Klein's legacy parallels that of other important women artists whose work has also been reappraised in recent years, including Yayoi Kusama, Ruth Asawa and Louise Bourgeois.

This exhibition allows visitors to Christie's to witness the depth and breadth of her work through a new lens. For viewing times and details, please visit [Christies.com](https://www.christies.com).

PRESS CONTACT: Kristin Guiter, kguiter@christies.com

About Christie's

Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine, decorative and digital art, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting Private Sales for clients and online sales are offered year-round across all categories. Christie's global presence is spread across a network of international salerooms and 61 representatives and offices. Christies.com provides detailed articles and videos on the objects offered for sale alongside the latest advances in digital viewing tools to make Christie's accessible to all.

**Please note when quoting estimates above that other fees will apply in addition to the hammer price - see Section D of the Conditions of Sale at the back of the sale catalogue.*

**Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and are reported net of applicable fees.*

Private Sales are an integral and complementary part of Christie's global business and in 2020 contributed \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion), a record year for the platform at Christie's and an increase of 84% YoY. Christie's Private Sales offers a seamless service for buying and selling art outside of the auction calendar. From fine and decorative arts to jewellery and watches, our specialists will use Christie's global network to help shape your collection, connect you with the right people and broker a sale. In addition, the Private Sales team hold regular curated exhibitions around the world. Christie's founder James Christie regularly offered Private Sales, most notably the sale in the 18th Century of the magnificent art collection amassed by Great Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole to Catherine the Great of Russia which formed the core of Russia's Hermitage collection.

Private Sales – Our Best Kept Secret.... <https://www.christies.com/privatesales>

###

FOLLOW CHRISTIE'S ON:

