



LONG-SHARP
GALLERY

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Antoni Tàpies: *Untitled*



Untitled

Year: 1970

Medium: Paint, pencil, collage, frottage on cardboard

Sheet size: 25.6 x 26.6 in (65 x 67.5 cm)

Frame size: 32.25 x 33.5 in (81.9 x 85 cm)

Certified by Antoni Tàpies Commission, Barcelona

Provenance:

Private Collection, Barcelona

Exhibition History:

Mayoral Gallery, Barcelona

“Through my works I try to face the problems of the conscience: I incite the spectator to intervene on his conscience to compel it to a deeper vision of everyday life.”

- Antoni Tàpies

Over the course of his career in painting, printmaking, and etching, Antoni Tàpies has created his own lexicon of symbols and marks to help communicate the broad range of influences in his work. Tàpies' abstract paintings are made with expressive blends of impasto, gestural brush strokes, often backwards hand-written script, and common materials like soil and marble dust.



Untitled (c. 1970) displays a mixed technique on paper that promises a certain order in the division of the space, through a light chromatic contrast, the big cross on the left top, the numbers on the right.



Signature detail



The cross, one of Tàpies' recurring symbols, is repeated in white at the top left and scrubbed in the paint at the top right, as a gesture to be left on the walls of the roads as evidence of existence and transition.



Detail

A private syntax of ciphers also abounds in Tàpies' work, often appearing as an amalgam of Eastern calligraphy and Western graffiti. His ubiquitous 'cross' simultaneously signifies the first letter of his surname, a kiss, an erasure, a location, a vote, or a mark of faith.

Tàpies uses the light and close undulations of the cardboard to modulate the path of the black stains. *Untitled* shows how Tàpies' gestures are fundamentally disobedient, undisciplined, impulsive and self-possessed.

Antoni Tàpies and Martha Jackson

Martha Jackson emerged as a pioneer art dealer and became known for her cross-continental approach, by promoting artists from West and East.

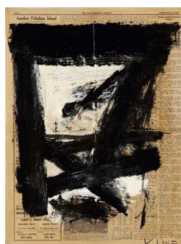


Tàpies and Jackson at Jackson's gallery in New York in 1953

In Europe, Spanish artist Antoni Tàpies drew Martha Jackson's attention. Tàpies was invited to New York where Martha Jackson showed his work from 1953 onwards, both in solo and group exhibitions. She introduced Tàpies to several Gutai artists (for example Shiraga), which led him to meet many American artists in 1959 including Pollock, Kline, de Kooning and Motherwell. The same year, Michel Tapié published the first exhaustive monograph on his body of work. In 1960 Martha Jackson showed the works of Tàpies alongside Arp, Burri, Calder, Chamberlain, Cornell, Jim Dine, Dubuffet, Dan Flavin, Jasper Johns, Kaprow, Yves Klein, Nevelson, Oldenburg and Rauschenberg. In 1960, Tàpies also showed his work at MoMA and Guggenheim.

Tàpies and Jackson at Jackson's gallery in New York in 1953 Antoni Tàpies expresses his gratitude and admiration to Martha Jackson through the work *Untitled* by making a collage of newspaper with the logo of Martha's gallery on it.

Additional Images



Franz Kline, *Untitled* (1954)



Willem de Kooning, *Waves I* (1960)



Antoni Tàpies, *Untitled* (1954)



Additional images: Antoni Tàpies, *Untitled* (1970)



Framed image



Close up of collage element



Signature



Close up of "X"

