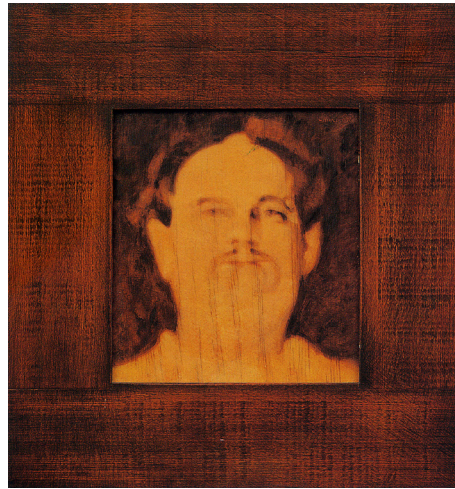


Thomas Chimes Frieze New York 2020

Online Viewing Room | Spotlight Section

Preview Days: May 6 - May 7

Public Days: May 8 - 15



Ubu, 1976, oil on wood, 15 1/4 x 14 1/2 inches

For the Frieze NY Viewing Room, Locks Gallery will feature a solo presentation of works by Thomas Chimes (1921-2009), one of the most revered and idiosyncratic figures to emerge from Philadelphia in the 20th century. Of Greek descent, Chimes was born in Philadelphia in 1921. After a promising early career in New York, Chimes chose to move back to Philadelphia in 1953 to remove himself from the quickly centralizing art world and focus on his dynamically changing work. He consumed esoteric writings by Artaud, Joyce, and especially Alfred Jarry, French writer and inventor of "Pataphysics"—the "science of imaginary solutions." As his career progressed, he became increasingly hermetic, focusing the subjects of his paintings on a constellation of cultural figures and their contributions that paralleled his own explorations of the human condition. The diverse body of work that the artist created since the 1950s reveals his remarkable ability to periodically reinvent himself.

This presentation of his work will focus on Chimes' series of 48 portraits created between 1973 - 1978 that depict French Symbolist poets, philosophers, and literary figures who contributed to the destruction of established values and tradition at the turn of the twentieth century, including Oscar Wilde, Arthur Rimbaud, Ludwig



Wittgenstein and Edgar Allen Poe. The sepia-palette portraits are each based on a period photograph and encased within an artist-made wooden frame, and the subjects are connected either directly or obliquely to Jarry, a strong source of inspiration throughout Chimes' career. The panel portraits were first exhibited at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 1975. Anne D'Harnoncourt, Duchamp scholar and director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art was an early champion of these works; the PMA now houses a significant number of panel portraits in their collection, and mounted a major retrospective of his work in 2007.

Locks Gallery will showcase this important period of Chimes' production ten years after his death. Locks Gallery has represented the artist and his estate for over a quarter of a century, bringing further understanding to an artist whose remarkable five-decade career represents an extraordinary and under-recognized contribution to post-war American art. Chimes' work is at once intensely personal, philosophically broad even in its eccentricity and veiled messaging - in a word, transcendent.

Chimes' work is currently included in 'Alfred Jarry: The Carnival of Being' at the Morgan Library & Museum, online concurrently to Frieze.

For more information about the Frieze New York Online Viewing Room or the work to be featured, please contact info@locksgallery.com.

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