

ROBERT OVERBY
Paintings & Drawings from the 1970s
April 28 – June 16, 2012



Marc Selwyn Fine Art is pleased to announce an exhibition of work by Robert Overby.

This exhibition brings together paintings and drawings from the 1970s that articulate Overby's interest in appropriated imagery, the figure and the underlying structure of painting. Overby constructed images by borrowing fragments of advertising, pornography, book cover illustrations and various other popular ephemera. The juxtaposition of figurative, commercial and non-objective imagery creates complex relationships that build meaning from their disparate sources. Themes of sensuality, tactile qualities and sexuality are explored through fragmented imagery.

Overby's wide ranging imagery is matched by an equally broad array of painting techniques. Flat and graphic elements are presented alongside lush and painterly surfaces. An underlying grid structure often binds the work together, resulting in a constructed, architectural feel. As Overby wrote "using the grid allows complete range of content from non-objective to figurative." In addition, the composition of Overby's work in the 1970s drew upon the language of Pop painters such as Rosenquist and Wesselman yet foreshadowed the appropriationist painters of the 1980s like David Salle.

Robert Overby was born in Illinois in 1935 and died in Los Angeles in 1993. Prior to his work as a fine artist, he was an accomplished graphic designer who created logos and other graphic materials for Toyota, Boeing, MGM, IBM and The Museum of Modern Art.

In May of 2000 the UCLA Hammer Museum presented the first retrospective of his work; Robert Overby: Parallel, 1978-1969 curated by Terry Meyers. This exhibition sparked new interest in Robert Overby, as evidenced by numerous acquisitions of important works by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others.