



WATSON & SPIERMAN FINE ART

NEWS

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Press kits and high-resolution images of the artists' paintings available on request.

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**"Origins and Continuity" at Nexus Projects Gallery
Abstract Art from the 1950s and the 2000s by Ken Nack and Brad Nack**

Exhibition: May 18 to June 11, 2005
New York Gallery Building, 24 West 57th Street, Suite 301

Opening Reception: Wednesday, May 18, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

New York, N.Y. – Acclaimed as a leading talent on the avant-garde art scene of 1950s New York, abstract painter Ken Nack has been making art ever since. New York-born Brad Nack, son of Ken, is an accomplished contemporary abstract artist in his own right with a dedicated following in southern California and a small, but growing audience of collectors in New York. Father and son have now teamed to offer lovers of modern art a chance to revisit a dynamic part of art history. In *Origins and Continuity*, their first exhibition together, Ken Nack will show a group of paintings not seen in fifty years, along with a selection of more recent works. The showing will also include abstract paintings from Brad Nack's most recent series. The exhibition will be presented by the Nexus Projects Gallery and Watson & Spierman Fine Art from May 18 through June 11 at the New York Gallery Building at 24 W. 57th Street, Suite 301.

Ken Nack was featured in a 1950 *Life Magazine* profile of 19 young American artists pushing the boundaries of modern art. Following studies at the Art Institute of Chicago and later in Paris under cubist painter Fernand Léger, Ken's New York connection dates to the early 1950s when he painted in a Greenwich Village studio. His paintings were shown in definitive exhibitions of contemporary American art of the era at the Whitney, Guggenheim and Metropolitan Museums, as well as the Museum of Modern Art's three-year traveling "*Calligraphic and Geometric*" exhibition. Ken's work is currently held in more than 100 private and public collections, including the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

A *Los Angeles Times* 1951 review described Ken Nack's paintings as adventures in space "created by dark and light areas that appear to recede or advance because of the way the artist has painted over

them hundreds of lines, curved and straight, thick and thin and occasional touches of color.” The Nexus show will highlight his works in the late 1940’s through the 1950s, from his studies in the Léger atelier to examples from his evocative “Childscape” series circa 1958. Ken’s body of work reveals an artist who has stayed in peak creative form decade after decade. Recent work to be displayed at Nexus includes two brand-new pieces that revisit the innovative style he developed in the 1950s, plus one example each from the following five decades.

Lifestyle choices ultimately led Ken Nack to southern California, with numerous sojourns along the way in Europe, Mexico and San Francisco, where he briefly owned a gallery showcasing modern abstract artists. During 35 years as chairman of the art department at Santa Barbara City College, he continued to travel extensively as the founder and director of the college’s popular Semester Abroad art program.

Brad Nack’s travels from early childhood with his father helped shape the historical perspective that distinguishes his art. Painting with an easy confidence reflecting his legacy as the son of two artists, Brad fuses images across time and cultures with a post-conceptual sensibility that reflects a special affection for the Fifties, as well as respect for the continuity of art traditions. His art, often rendered with impressionistic brush strokes, shows a constructive affinity for the shapes of modern art, the representational aspects of primitive art and the simplicity of line drawings. At the same time, a nod to whimsy evocative of Paul Klee or Adolph Gottlieb, combined with a sophisticated irreverence toward subject matter, affirms and defines the artist’s own highly original vision.

Brad uses a pallet of more than 80 colors, including some very old, especially lustrous paints from the Fifties that belonged to his father. He allows the colors to evolve as he paints, balancing those that recede with others that come forward, playing warm against cool. Color wizardry and abstract ethnic references are the unifying elements in Brad Nack’s work showing at the Nexus Projects Gallery

Alexander Oppenheimer, Director of Nexus Projects, is curating the Nacks’ ***Origins and Continuity*** exhibition. Nexus Projects Gallery showcases emerging artists across all media, specializing in contemporary American and international art and fashion. Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday.

For information about the exhibition and specific paintings in the collection, or to schedule gallery appointments, readers may contact: Watson & Spierman Fine Art; 636 Broadway, Suite 708, New York, NY 10012; phone 212-253-9991; email: email@watsonspierman.com; website: www.watsonspierman.com/fineart

Readers may request an invitation to the May 18 opening reception by visiting the artists’ websites at: www.kennackart.com or www.bradnack.com