

# THE NEW MUSEUM

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ALFRED JENSEN: PAINTINGS AND DIAGRAMS FROM THE YEARS 1959-1977

OPENS MARCH 18, 1978.

An exhibition of forty-four paintings and twelve diagrams (works on paper) by Alfred Jensen opens at The New Museum on Saturday, March 18, 1978. This is the first major retrospective of Jensen's work and gives deserved recognition to the achievement of a singular and uniquely independent artist. Continuing through April 21, this exhibition is the third show to be presented at The New Museum's downtown gallery since it opened last November.

The exhibition, selected by Linda Cathcart of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, and Marcia Tucker, Director of The New Museum in New York City, was organized by Ms. Cathcart for the Albright-Knox. It was chosen to represent the United States at the XLV International Sao Paulo Bienal in Brazil, where it received much public notice and critical acclaim before opening in Buffalo in January. After its five-week showing at The New Museum, the exhibition will travel to the Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, California; the Department of Fine Arts Gallery, University of Colorado Museum; and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Born in Guatemala in 1903, Alfred Jensen traveled extensively, as a seaman in his early years and later as a scholar interested in ancient civilizations. He studied in Munich with Hans Hofmann and at the Académie Scandinave in Paris. He lived and worked in

New York City from 1951 to 1972, and at present lives in New Jersey with his wife, painter Regina Bagat, and their two children.

In her essay for the exhibition catalogue, Marcia Tucker describes Jensen's work as "flat, thickly painted checkerboards of bright color, numbered or bordered with obscure scientific symbols or equations, bands of lush, heavy color, geometries and patterns that are somehow familiar, classical," calling to mind "Persian rugs, gameboards, tiled floors, Tantric diagrams, illuminated manuscripts and medieval stained-glass windows." Jensen is quoted in Linda Cathcart's essay for the exhibition catalogue, "Specialization ends in self-destruction, so my mission as an artist is to put that over. I respond to the sensibility of my epoch. The artist is the predecessor to actual events and discoveries. I don't want results, I want the road."

The illustrated catalogue of the exhibition includes writings by the artist in addition to the essays by Cathcart and Tucker.

Alfred Jensen: Paintings and Diagrams From the Years 1957-1977 is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency in Washington D.C., and is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

We hope you will attend our press preview, Friday, March 17 from 2 to 4 p.m. at The New Museum, 65 Fifth Avenue, New York. For further information, please contact Maureen Reilly (212) 741-8962.