

Adi Da Samraj "Orpheus and Linead" Opens at Sundaram Tagore Gallery



Sundaram Tagore (left) and Achille Bonito Oliva talk during the press preview of the exhibition which opens today and runs through October 9, 2010 at [Sundaram Tagore Gallery](#).

NEW YORK, NY.- Adi Da Samraj is known for his monumental works meant to draw viewers into an ecstatic experience and connect them to a higher spiritual truth. Since his participation in the 2007 Venice Biennale, the late American-born artist has commanded a large international following. This exhibition, called Orpheus and Linead, curated by the renowned Italian critic and art historian Achille Bonito Oliva (director of the 45th Venice Biennale), comprises 11 works on aluminum. Each image is a geometric abstraction composed of the three primary colors and black and white. The works in the series reinterpret the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. This is the artist's first solo exhibition in New York and it features several works that have never been shown publicly.

Adi Da (1939-2008) graduated from Columbia University in New York in 1961 with a BA in philosophy and from Stanford University in 1966 with an MA in literature. His thesis was on modernism, Gertrude Stein, and painters of the same period. He began making art in the early 1960s, in the form of photography and calligraphic brush painting. In the last decade of his career, he worked to move beyond the single-point perspective that dominates the canon of Western art. By transcending single-point perspective, which he equated with egocentricism, he sought to invite viewers into a space devoid of ego. Curator Achille Bonito Oliva explains:

"The abstraction of Adi Da Samraj is anti-rhetorical and aspires to restore humanity to a state of contemplation and reflection....His abstract images look upon the world from beyond any point of view."

Over the course of his artistic career, Adi Da embraced technology, which he valued for the precision, aesthetic freedom, and non-painterliness it allowed. For this body of work, Adi Da began by photographing a chair, a bicycle, and a bird in flight. He then made digital compositions of geometric shapes inspired by his photographs. Once completed, the first drawing served as the basis for the next work as he sought to progressively abstract his images. Thus each subsequent image was a further distillation of the previous one.

Adi Da's digital drawings were informed by a complex vocabulary of forms, colors, and spiritual concepts. He used two major visual elements in each work, which he called lineads and geomes. Lineads are hand-drawn gestural marks and curvilinear lines; geomes are solid geometric shapes. There is a momentum that takes place as the lineads uncoil upon the harmoniously positioned blocks of colors or the geomes. Together these forms unite to create a sense of dynamism and movement within the drawings.

In the final stage of Adi Da's unique process, the drawings were sent to a top fabrication studio to be transformed, in a painstaking and elaborate process, into large-scale works composed of lacquer pigment on aluminum.

In addition to being an artist, Adi Da was a spiritual leader and prolific author on spiritual subjects. His work has been shown widely in Europe and the United States. Adi Da was the first contemporary artist to be given a solo exhibition by the city of Florence. In 2007, he was featured as an official solo collateral artist at the Venice Biennale. Recently his work was exhibited at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri.

The exhibition is on view at [Sundaram Tagore Gallery](#) from September 9th - October 9th, 2010.

Sundaram Tagore Gallery | Adi Da Samraj | New York |

artdaily.org © 1996-2010

Founder:

Ignacio Villarreal

Editor & Publisher:

Jose Villarreal

Consultant:

Ignacio Villarreal Jr.

Art Director:

Juan José Sepúlveda

Marketing:

Carla Gutiérrez

Production:

Special Contributor: Liz Gangemi

Special Advisor: Carlos Amador - Contributing Editor: Carolina Farias

Royalville Communications, Inc

produces:

ignaciovillarreal.org

Editor site.

theavemaria.org

The most varied versions
of this beautiful prayer.

juncodelavega.org

Hommage
to a Mexican poet.