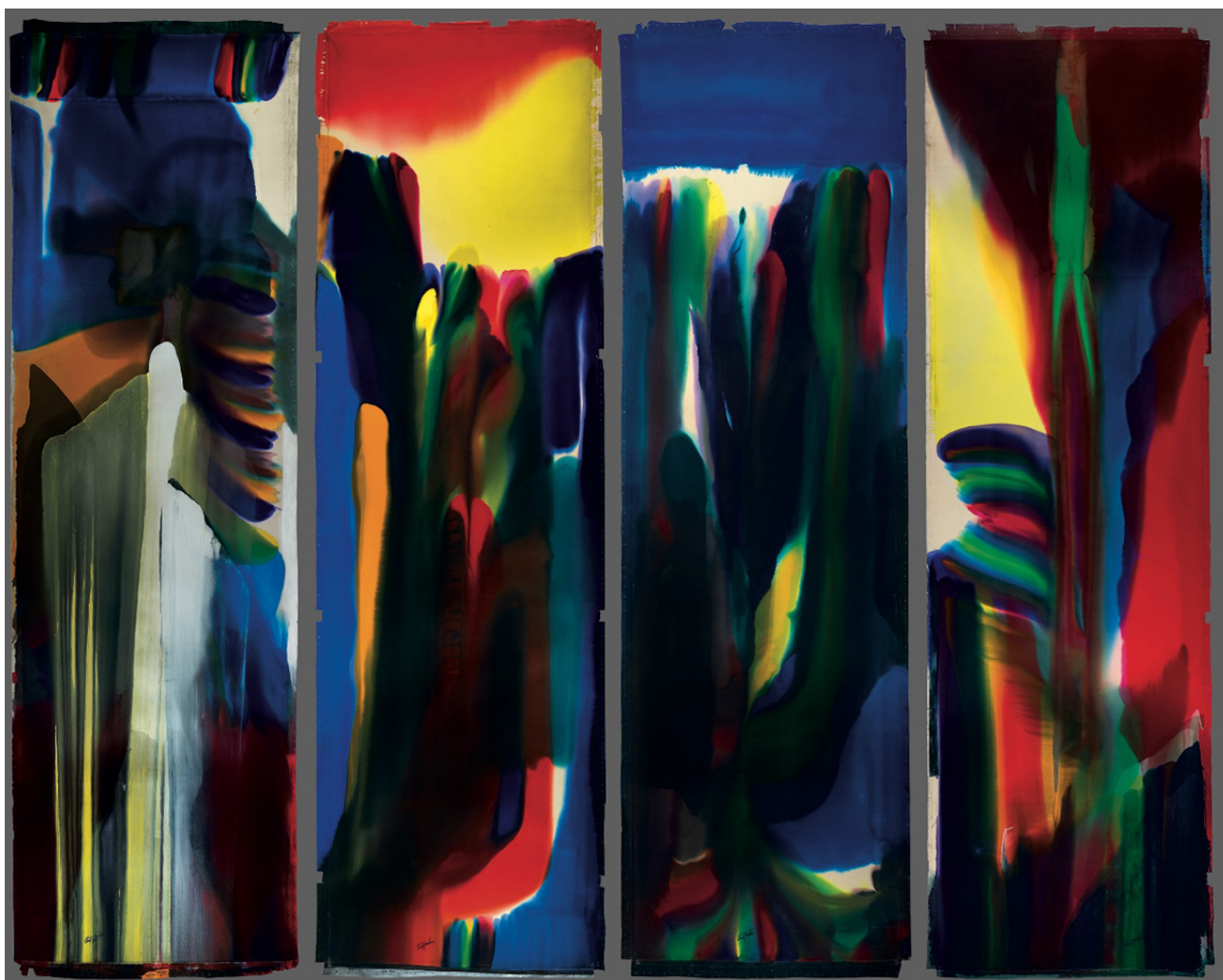


PAUL JENKINS: PAINTING FOR PERFORMANCE

McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas September 12 - December 8, 2019
4 monumental paintings and 26 watercolors



Paintings by Paul Jenkins for his dance-drama, *Shaman to the Prism Seen*, performed at the Salle Favart, Opéra-Comique, Théâtre National de l'Opéra de Paris, May 1987.

Each painting an original acrylic on canvas: ca. 300 x 90 inches/762 x 228.5 cm ©1987 Estate of Paul Jenkins.

Four monumental paintings and 26 watercolors made by the artist for his dance-drama *Shaman to the Prism Seen* performed at the Paris Opera's Salle Favart in 1987 are currently on view in the exhibition *Painting for Performance* at the McNay Museum of Art in San Antonio, Texas. Jenkins' lifelong involvement with the theatre is little known, yet is an enduring and powerful force in his creative expression: *Shaman to the Prism Seen* was his most significant engagement. For this dance-drama, he conceived and wrote the libretto, painted original sets and costumes and chose the music. In 1986 in his New York studio, the artist painted the 4 original canvases, approximately 25' x 7.5' each for the stage. In that same year, Jenkins described his vision of these paintings:

"What I hope to convey by this is an environment of color. What I would like to do is create vast areas of interpenetrating and fusing colors which will create a total ambiance or world of color that envelops the stage."

At the time Jenkins wrote the narrative for *Shaman to the Prism Seen*, he made a series of watercolors evoking the atmosphere and terrain for the stage. As described by the distinguished art historian Frank Anderson Trapp:

“It would serve no purpose to attempt to align the individual works on view with the narrative development of the performance as it unfolds, for their essence has little if anything to do with such matters. Rather, their collective function would seem to be emitting a kind of scintillation — flashing signals that taken together transmit an impression of the whole of which they are part, without depriving them of their individual character and energy.”

The renowned Tobin Collection of Theatre Arts at the McNay Art Museum is home to more than 12,000 objects representing all aspects of stage design, and over 2,000 rare books on art and performance. The collection emphasizes European and American stage design from the 1500s to the present. *Painting for Performance* is sponsored by The Tobin Theatre Arts Fund.

Also on View this Fall

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York *Artistic License: Six Takes on the Guggenheim Collection*

May 24, 2019 – January 12, 2020 From the permanent collection: *The Prophecy 1956*,
oil on canvas 51 x 77 inches 129.5 x 195.6 cm

**Milwaukee Museum of Art, Milwaukee *Phenomena Blue Held Over 1975* acrylic on
*canvas 75 x 118 inches 190.5 x 299.7 cm***

Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis *Abstract Expressionism: A Social Revolution, Selections from the Haskell Collection*

October 27 2019 – January 5, 2020 Organized by the Tampa Museum of Art