



TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY

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TAYLOE PIGGOTT GALLERY ANNOUNCES
AN EXHIBITION WITH ARTIST ROLAND POSKA

Exhibition Dates: December 10 –January 24, 2021

Taylor Piggott Gallery is pleased to present the works of Roland Poska, a pioneer of handmade paper and printmaking who elevated his craft to national renown in the tumult of the 1980s art world. Constructed with cotton fibers churned with pure powdered pigments, Poska's paintings are accumulated works with sculptural attributes referred to as "Papestries" by the artist. With the textures and appearance of vibrantly hued felts, these pieces are as idiosyncratic as the process, some featuring pastoral scenery of houses and sunsets, others with abstractly radiating circles and organic shapes. Poska's work at once presents whimsicality and imaginative novelty with the gravitas of artistic rigor.

At 78 x 91.5 inches an untitled diptych dating from the 2000's is among the larger pieces in the show. Though divided in the middle, the overall image resembles a landscape with a foreground of green where trees appear to be rooted with topographical elements behind, a golden pink skyscape, and a central accumulation of fibrous orange clumps that span both fields and give the affect of the sun.

An aptly named sculpture, *Wall Sentinel I*, stretches almost 10 feet up the wall, in some respects a towering humanlike figure, or perhaps simply an exuberant abstract exclamation of color. Stacked, oblong rosettes transition from true yellow through pinks, raspberry reds, purples and deep inky blues and greens, giving the effect of a totem—a watchman of sorts.

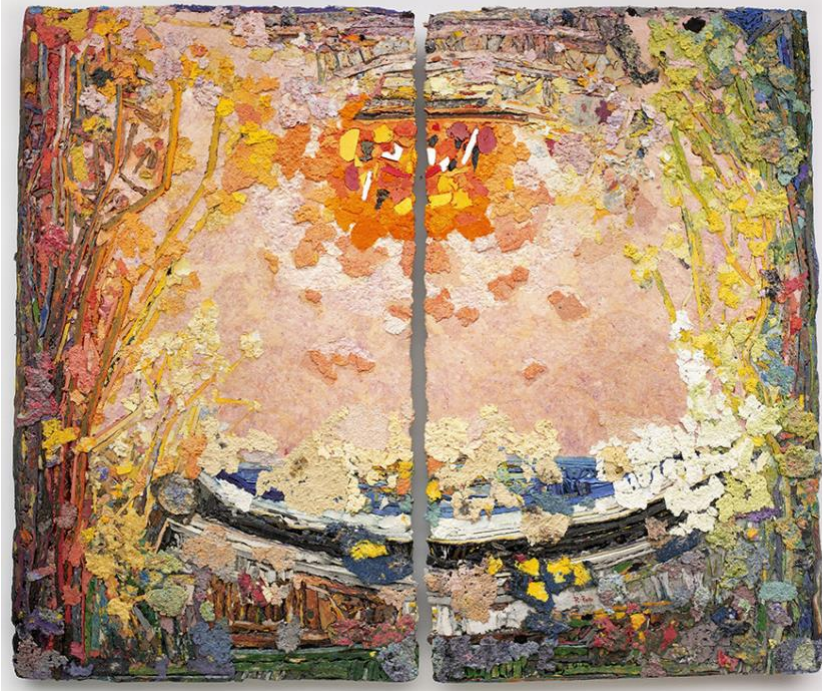
In 1967 Poska purchased a beater for breaking down and blending cotton fibers with water and pigment. His innovative process involved arranging the premixed paper pulp, some wet some dry, into patterns within a sheet metal frame. Once the frame was removed from the front of the dried work, the final piece was revealed. A sizable work like those presented here could take the artist up to six months to complete. In addition to the inception of his papermaking process, in 1967 Poska started Fishy Whale Press and Lithography studio in Rockford, Illinois, where he printed lithographs for himself and others on one of the largest presses in the United States. In collaboration with artist John Doyle, Poska produced a series of prints called *The Great Human Race*, a project that lasted over thirty years. Many of *The Great Human Race* prints appear in the collections of American museums.

Roland Poska was born in Scotland in 1938 to Lithuanian parents who immigrated to the United States in 1948 and made a home in Rockford, Illinois. He attended Rockford College and Cranbrook Academy of Art. In 1963 Poska moved to Milwaukee where he taught at Layton School of Art and founded and taught at Milwaukee School of Art and Design when Layton closed. His works are included in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Poska was an activist for human rights and was

frequently an outspoken attendee at Rockford town hall meetings. He died February 2, 2017 in Rockford, Illinois.



Roland Poska
Sentinel I, 1990's
Paper and pure pigment
78 x 91.5 inches



Roland Poska
Untitled, 2000's
Cotton fiber and pigment
78 x 91.5 inches



Roland Poska
Untitled, 1970's
Cotton fiber and pigment

46.25 x 73 inches