

For Immediate Release

James Harrison

The Future Is in the Past

James Harrison (1925-1990) sought spiritual transcendence through art and probed the inner machinations of the self through artistic practice. But unlike the approach of some of his New York School mentors, Harrison's interrogation of the self was neither lofty in its aesthetic motivation nor didactic in execution. A gritty, uncompromising, deeply personal counterpoint to the haughtier aesthetic ambitions of the abstract expressionists, Harrison's oeuvre reveals the darker aspects of self-transcendence. Harrison's road to the sublime led him through an intense exploration of sexuality, altered states of consciousness, Jungian dream analysis, alchemy, tantra, astrology and the Kabbalah.

This exhibition, the first solo show for the artist since his death in 1990, covers nearly four decades of the artist's career from 1949 to 1987, and includes a wide range of Harrison's stylistic development. Many individual works reveal their own long history, having been reworked in numerous sittings over a span of many years. What unifies this work is a consistently wild and masterful application of line and color, where images have been excavated through an automatist struggle with the medium at hand.

Title: James Harrison: The Future is in the Past

Dates: 1 April – 6 May 2006

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