

**GEORGE ADAMS PROJECTS**

*Chicago Style*

Joanna Beall, Roger Brown, Leon Golub, Miyoko Ito,  
Ellen Lanyon, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt,  
Ed Paschke, Barbara Rossi, H.C. Westermann, and Karl Wirsum

December 13, 2024 – February 8, 2025

The George Adams Gallery is pleased to present *Chicago Style*, a group exhibition highlighting key figures from Chicago's vibrant mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century art scene. The show features works by Joanna Beall, Roger Brown, Leon Golub, Miyoko Ito, Ellen Lanyon, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt, Ed Paschke, Barbara Rossi, H.C. Westermann, and Karl Wirsum.

This exhibition traces the development of a unique Chicago aesthetic, shaped by artists from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and the Hyde Park Art Center. These artists rejected the dominant trends from New York and the West Coast, creating diverse and unconventional work in movements like surrealism, figuration, abstraction, and social commentary.

The exhibition also reflects their overlapping careers and collaborations, such as the 1949 *Exhibition Momentum* organized by Golub and Lanyon, which included Ito. The spirit of collaboration continued with the founding of Superior Street Gallery by Ito and Lanyon in the 1950s.

Allan Frumkin Gallery, which opened in Chicago in 1952, played a key role in supporting many of these artists and elevating their work beyond the city. Frumkin gave Leon Golub and H.C. Westermann their first solo exhibitions in Chicago, and employed Ellen Lanyon as a restorer and Jim Nutt as an art handler, fostering a dynamic creative community. By showcasing these artists in both his Chicago and New York galleries, Frumkin helped establish the unique aesthetic that defined Chicago's mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century art scene.

Works in the exhibition includes paintings from the late 1950s by Golub and Ito, works from the 1960s by Lanyon and Beall, and examples from the 1970s by Brown, Nilsson, Paschke, Rossi, and Wirsum. Of special note is Westermann's *The Death Ship (Black Tar Death Ship)* from 1974 that has never been offered since it was acquired by a private collector in the late 1970s.