

## Jim Dine: *Years Ago & Now*

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016



*Hearts in a Meadow, 1970. Mixed media. 22 3/4 x 28 1/4".*

Jim Kempner Fine Art is pleased to announce Jim Dine: *Years Ago & Now*, an exhibition which celebrates the illustrious career of one of the most influential Post-War American artists. The exhibition will feature five of the artist's most recent editions, a significant painted bronze Venus sculpture, and a selection of prints and unique work from the 1960s and 1970s. The exhibition will be on view from February 11<sup>th</sup>– March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. An opening reception for the public will be held on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, from 5– 7 pm.

Jim Dine's work is characterized by the emergence and reemergence of select motifs, such as the heart, the robe, and the Venus. *Primary Ladies* is a striking bronze sculpture consisting of three variegated Venus bodies, modeled after the Hellenistic sculpture *Venus de Milo* from 100 BC. Dine brought the image of the Venus to light in painting, printmaking, and sculpture in the late 1970s- 1980s. For Dine, the Venus was "a link to art history... and is about the relationship

of art and the history of art to objects." Noted for their corporeality, Dine's Venus sculptures have transformed a popular icon in Western art. A monumental outdoor version entitled *Looking Toward the Avenue* can be seen on New York's Sixth Avenue between 52nd and 53rd Streets.

*Chartres, 2nd Version; 2015; Years Ago, 2015; and Watercolored by Jim, 2015* are all variations on the image of the heart. Originally developed from sets he designed in 1965 for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the heart is another dominant theme in the artist's oeuvre. Variations of the motif are seen in *Hearts in the Meadow*, a mixed-media work on paper from 1970 and *Heart in a Landscape* from 1968. *Heart in a Landscape*, a small oil on canvas, is one example of the artist's more personal paintings. The inscription in the top right corner ("for BEANS") is a reference to Jim Dine's friend Sergio Emidi, an Italian actor from the 1960's and 1970's, who was nicknamed "Fagiolo" after his favorite food, beans.

For the past five decades, Jim Dine has integrated printmaking as a dominant art making method, exploring the full range of its aesthetic potential. His editions showcase a mastery of combining woodcut, etching, aquatint, lithography and hand painting on paper. The exhibition features a sampling of Dine's most recognizable imagery spanning the length of his career. *Zein Robe, 2014* is a lithograph with hand painting of a robe, one of Dine's most prolific motifs. His adaption of the robe began in 1964 and has re-appeared sporadically in his work transforming from a self-portrait to a more iconic, expressive, and spiritual vehicle. Other selections from the exhibition include select etchings and drawings of various tools, another prominent theme in Dine's work.

**Jim Dine** (b. 1935, Cincinnati, Ohio) moved to New York City in 1958 and became an instant figure in the New York art world, staging many of the first "Happenings" alongside artists Claus Oldenburg, Allan Kaprow, and Robert Whitman. Since his first solo exhibition in 1960, Dine's work has been the subject of more than 300 solo exhibitions worldwide. He has had surveys and retrospectives at major institutions such as the Whitney Museum of American Art (1970);

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY (1999); and the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. (2004). He has received numerous awards and honors including the Cincinnati Art Award from the Cincinnati Museum of Art (2010); the Legacy in Lithography Award from Tamarind Institute, College of Fine Arts, University of New Mexico (2010); the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, 10th Annual Medal Award (2005); the Library Lions Award, New York Public Library (2003); and others. Dine's work is held in major public collections worldwide, including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Cleveland Museum of Art; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; the Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; San Francisco Museum of Art; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Tate Gallery, London; the Whitney Museum of American Art; and others.

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For more information, please contact gallery director Dru Arstark, [dru@jimkempner.com](mailto:dru@jimkempner.com), or associate director Sarah Bielicky, [sarah@jimkempner.com](mailto:sarah@jimkempner.com).

