

ANITA SHAPOLSKY GALLERY

152 East 65TH Street New York, NY 10065 212-452-1094 FAX: 212-452-1096

For Immediate Press Release

Anita Shapolsky Gallery Presents:

Artistic Friendships of Lawrence Calcagno: Beauford Delaney, Seymour Boardman, John Hultberg, Richards Ruben and Harry Leigh (sculpture)

November 8, 2007 - January 26, 2008

Anita Shapolsky Gallery is presently hosting a show on Lawrence Calcagno and his intricate artistic friendships. The collection includes works by Beauford Delaney, Seymour Boardman, John Hultberg, Richards Ruben and Harry Leigh all friends from the post World War II era.

After Calcagno's service in the Army Air Forces in the early 1940's he studied art at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco from 1947 to 1950. In the early 1950's he studied at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere, Paris and at the Academia degli Belle Arte, Florence, Italy where he met most of his friends. In 1955 he had his first one-man show at the Martha Jackson Gallery in New York. Time magazine on October 17, 1955, featured Calcagno "as one of the first artists whose work abstracted the environment", because he led the protest against Grand Palais in France that would not exhibit the American artists' work.

In the late 1950's and 1960's he worked as an instructor of art at many prestigious institutions. After the 1950's, Calcagno's work evolved around abstract explorations of landscape themes. He exhibited in many museums and galleries in the United States and Europe. He had his work shown in 41 one man shows including the Ulrich Museum in 1979 and he continues to have his work in over 24 permanent collections. The latest shows of his work took place at Musee d' Art Americain, Giverny, France in June-July 2003. Lawrence Calcagno died in 1993 at the age of 80.

This unique exhibition features works by Calcagno and Delaney, whose special relationship in the times of intense sexual and racial discrimination is described in a catalogue: *An Artistic Friendship: Beauford Delaney and Lawrence Calcagno*, Palmer Museum of Art, The Pennsylvania State University, PA, 2001, available at the gallery. Their contemporaries: the artist friends like Boardman, Hultberg, Ruben and Leigh united with them on the personal concerns of social isolation and aesthetic appreciations.

Larry Calcagno's work of the 1950's is truly indicative of the great momentum of abstract expressionism.