

DITESHEIM & MAFFEI
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IRVING PETLIN
Paintings & pastels

On the occasion of its third solo exhibition – following those of 2012 and 2016 – **Ditesheim & Maffei Gallery** is honored to announce that it now represents the Irving Petlin Estate in Europe. This new responsibility marks a significant milestone and reflects the gallery's enduring commitment to preserving, promoting, and expanding the reach of the artist's work.

The exhibition brings together a remarkable group of **paintings, pastels, and drawings created between 1983 and 2016**, including many works rarely shown to the public. Through this selection, the full depth of Irving Petlin's engagement with the major upheavals of history comes into focus. Both lucid and visionary, Petlin captures with rare acuity the human tensions and sociopolitical fractures of his time. Eschewing any direct depiction of violence, he favors an allusive and meditative visual language, opening a space for reflection on memory, transmission, and the human condition. This restraint lends his work a universal resonance, where aesthetic rigor is inseparable from a profound search for understanding and reconciliation.

Born in Chicago in 1934, Irving Petlin studied at the Art Institute of Chicago before continuing at Yale University, where he was a student of Joseph Albers. Influenced by Munch, Van Gogh, and especially Odilon Redon, he developed early on a deeply personal language, imbued with symbolism and lyricism. His work maintains a close dialogue with literature and music, paying tribute to major figures such as Bruno Schulz, Paul Celan, Primo Levi, Edmond Jabès, W.G. Sebald, Simone Weil, and Johann Sebastian Bach.

Having settled in Paris in the late 1950s, Petlin quickly became part of the European artistic landscape. He exhibited at the Galerie du Dragon and associated with leading figures including Jean Hélion, Alberto Giacometti, Balthus, Max Ernst, Maryan, and Roberto Matta. In 1962, he participated in the exhibition *Nouvelles Figuration II* at the Galerie Mathias Fels. Awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1970, he subsequently deepened his exploration of pastel, a medium to which he remained profoundly committed. Represented in turn by Marlborough and Kent Galleries in New York, he has, since the 1990s, been associated with **Jan Krugier, Ditesheim & Cie** in Geneva, and **Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art** in Neuchâtel. In 2017, his work was notably featured at the Petit Palais in Paris in the exhibition *The Art of Pastel: From Degas to Redon in the Collections of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de la Ville de Paris*, curated by Christophe Leribault.

Irving Petlin passed away in 2018 in Martha's Vineyard, leaving behind a body of work profoundly shaped by an acute awareness of history and the fragility of the human condition.



The Sea... Sinai

1988

Oil on canvas

159 x 260 cm



Fugue III
2010
Oil on canvas
81 x 100 cm



Brooklyn Is White (The Angels of Brooklyn)

2010-2015

Oil on canvas

66 x 106 cm (diptyque)



La Seine (in Sleep)

1996

Pastel on papier mounted on panel
80 x 200 cm



The Photographer 6

1991

Pastel on paper

62,5 x 50 cm

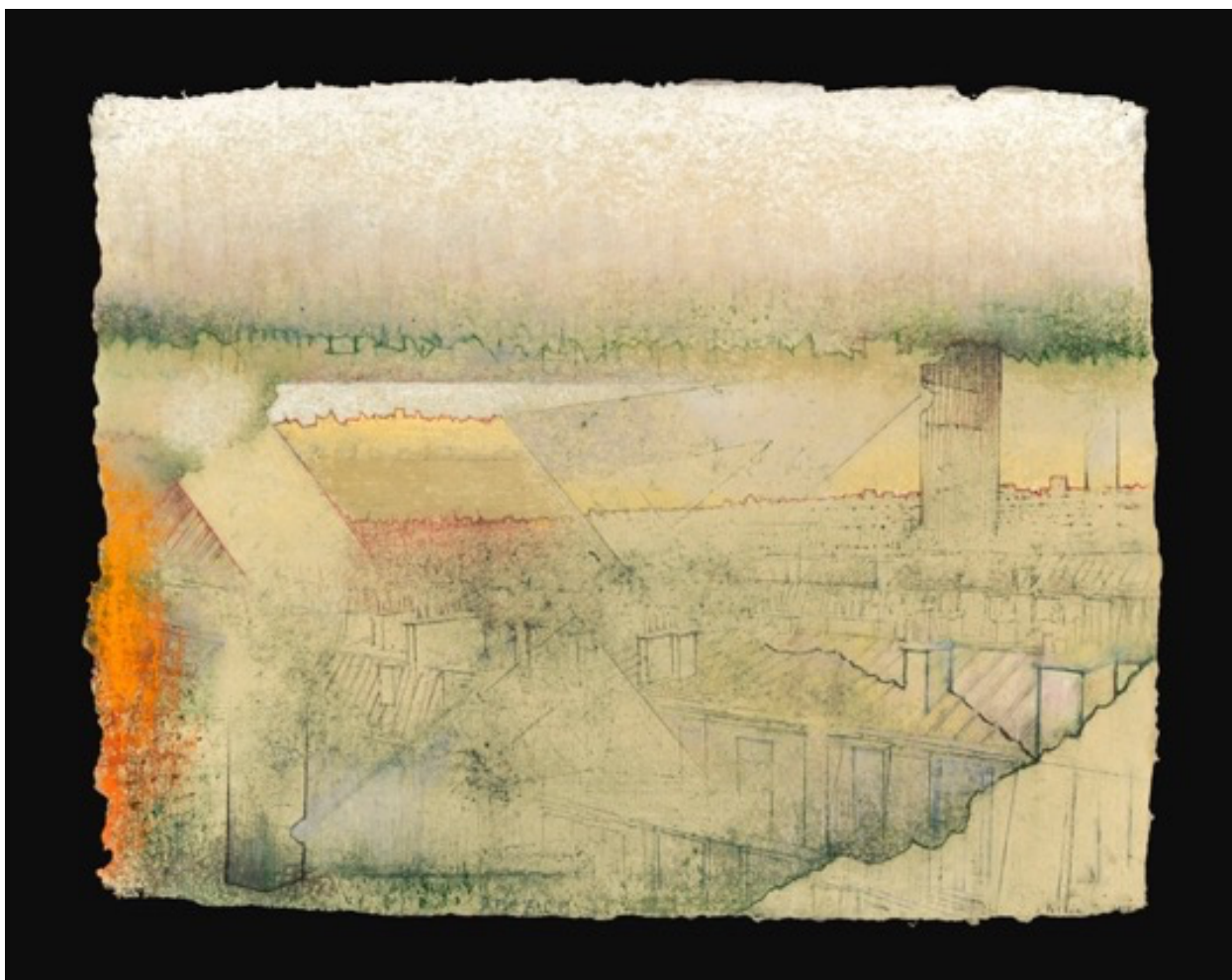


The Firely Beauty of The Heart II

2016

Pastel on paper

70 x 89 cm



Fugue 18
(de la série *L'Art de la Fugue*)
2010
Pastel on paper
69 x 89 cm

Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2026 *Irving Petlin*, Ditesheim & Maffei, Neuchâtel
Tribute to Edouard Glissant collection, CARA NYC
- 2025 *Irving Petlin, gardien de l'histoire*, Art Paris, Grand-Palais, Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel
- 2017 *Tribute to Irving Petlin*. National Arts Club, New York
- 2016 *Irving Petlin*. Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Neuchâtel
- 2015 *Où en es-tu Monde?*. Jacques Leegenhoek Gallery, Nadine Fattouh, Paris
- 2014 *The Still Open Case of Irving Petlin*. Kent Fine Art, New York
Mythology...and the Island. A Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts
Irving Petlin. Jacques Leegenhoek Gallery, Paris
- 2012 *Storms (After Redon)*. Kent Fine Art, New York
L'Art de la fugue. Ditesheim Gallery, Neuchâtel
- 2011 *En route*. Topographie de l'Art, Paris
- 2010 *Hommage à W. G. Sebald*. Ditesheim Gallery, Artparis, Grand Palais, Paris
Irving Petlin: An Artist of Conscience. Kent Gallery, New York
A Retrospective. Richard L. Feigen and Jan Krugier, New York
- 2007 *Orpheus: visit to the under world, pastels*. Ditesheim Gallery, Neuchâtel, FIAC, Paris
- 2006 *Este Mundo*. Kent Gallery, New York
- 2002 *Endgame*. Kent Gallery, New York
Togo Fine Art, Tokyo
Le Monde de Paul Celan. Krugier-Ditesheim Art Contemporain, Geneva
- 2001 Galleria Tega, Milan
Out of the Shadows. School of the Museum of Fine Art, Boston
- 1999 *Mémoire du voyage, voyage de la mémoire*. Thessa Herold Gallery, Paris
- 1998 *A Tribute to Meyer Schapiro*. Jan Krugier Gallery, New York
Irving Petlin : Pastels. Contini Gallery, Venice
- 1997 *New Pastels*. Weinstein Gallery, Minneapolis
Le Monde d'Edmond Jabes: Pastels. Krugier-Ditesheim Art Contemporain, Geneva
- 1996 *Paris is White*. Kent Gallery, New York

- 1995 *Disegni nacisti: 1955-1995*. Studio d'Arte Recalcati, Turin
- 1994 *Au gré la mémoire*. Thessa Herold Gallery, Paris
- 1993 *Swiat Brunona Shulza*. Kordegarda Gallery, Warsaw
- 1992 *Le Monde de Bruno Schulz*. Krugier-Ditesheim Art Contemporain, Geneva
Memories Drawn from Bruno Schulz and Others. Kent Gallery, New York
- 1990 *Israel in Egypt*. Kent Fine Art, New York
The Periodic Table. Gallery 400, University of Chicago
Drawings. Printworks, Chicago
- 1989 Based on Primo Levi *Periodic Table*, Kent Gallery, FIAC, Paris
- 1988 La Parisina Gallery, Turin
Elizabeth Franck Gallery, Knokke-le-Zoute
Pastels 1961-1987. Kent Fine Art, New York
- 1987 Simms Fine Art Gallery, New Orleans
Pastels. Jean Briance Gallery, Paris
Weisswald. Kent Fine Art, New York
- 1986 *New Paintings*. Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 1984 *Recent Paintings and Pastels*. Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 1983 Dart Gallery, Chicago
Forty Pastels. Odyssia Gallery, New York
Drawings from the Studio. Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
- 1982 *Recent Paintings and Pastels*. Marlborough Fine Art, London
- 1981 *Drawings, Pastels and Paintings*. Odyssia Gallery, New York
Drawings from the Studio. 1972-1981, University of California at Santa Cruz
- 1980 *Pastels*. Nina Dausset Gallery, Paris
- 1979 *The Drawing Lesson*. Odyssia Gallery, New York
- 1978 *Rubbings (Large Paintings, Small Pastels)*. Neuberger Museum, State University of New York at Purchase and then at Arts Club of Chicago
- 1977 Bergamini Gallery, Milan
- 1976 Rebecca Cooper Gallery, Washington, DC
Dipinti e Pastelli. Odyssia Gallery, Rome
- 1974 *Documenta*. Turin
- 1972 Bergamini Gallery, Milan

- 1971 Odyssia Gallery, New York
Peintures, Pastels 1956-1970. Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1970 Galleria Odyssia, Rome
- 1969 Galleria Odyssia, Rome
Odyssia Gallery, New York
- 1968 *Opere recenti*. Il Fante di Spade Gallery, Rome
Odyssia Gallery, New York
Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1967 Odyssia Gallery, New York
- 1966 Rolf Nelson Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1965 *Petlin*. Palais des Beaux-Arts, Bruxelles
- 1964 Hanover Gallery, London
Peintures récentes. Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1963 *Peintures 1962-1963*. Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1962 *Les 100 hommes*. Galatea, Turin
Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1960 Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1959 *Mother Harbour*. Studio Bellini, Milan
- 1958 Dilexi Gallery, San Francisco
- 1956 Cliffdweller Gallery, Chicago

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2017 *L'Art du pastel de Degas à Redon*. Musée des Beaux- Arts, Petit Palais, Paris
Hommage au Pastel, Salon du Dessin, Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art, Paris
- 2016 *Hey You! Who Me?*. Yale University of Art, New Haven, Connecticut. Curated by Robert Storr.
WITNESS. Kent Fine Art, New York
- 2015 *Invitation Exhibition of Visual Arts*. The American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
Abstract Approaches. Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York
- 2014 *Revisiting Histories*. Kent Fine Art, New York
- 2013 *Le Mal. Now*. Topographie de l'Art, Paris
- 2008 *Entre Chien Et Loup*. Kent Fine Art, New York
- 2007 *Le Pastel, chagrin de la peinture*. Saint-Jacques Gallery, Saint-Quentin
Il Settimo splendore: La Modernità della malinconia. Palazzo della Ragione, Verona
- 2006 *Thirty Years of New-Year Graphics from the Jewish Museum*. Burlington City Arts / Firehouse Gallery, Burlington, Vermont
- 2005 *Le Feu sous les cendres, de Picasso à Basquiat*. Musée Maillol-Fondation Dina Vierny, Paris
- 2004 *Nouveaux regards sur le pastel*. Saint-Jacques Gallery, Saint-Quentin
- 2003 *Max-Clarac Sérou, Galeriste et Editeur*. Didier Lecointre & Dominique Drouet Gallery, Paris
- 2002 *Petlin / Guarienti*. Le Point Gallery, Monaco
- 2001 *Alumni Choice*. Yale University of Art, New Haven, Connecticut
Pascal Gabert Gallery, Paris
- 2000 *Chicago Loop: Imagist Art 1949–1979*. Whitney Museum of American Art, Stanford
Paris sous le ciel de la peinture. Hôtel de Ville, Paris
- 1997 *Leon Golub, R.B. Kitaj, Irving Petlin*. Kent Gallery, New York
Inspired by Paul Cummings (Drawings, Paintings, Sculpture). Achim Moeller Fine Art, New York
- 1996 *Light into Darkness*. Kent Gallery, New York
- 1995 *Éloge du pastel, de Liotard à Petlin*. Jan Krugier Gallery, Geneva
L'Arbre en majesté (Hommage d'artistes contemporains aux sculpteurs anonymes des Arbres de Jessé du XVe siècle). Musée de l'Hospice de Saint-Roch, Issoudun

- Voices of Conscience: Then and Now.* ACA Galleries, New York. Curated by Barbara Hollister.
- 1992 *Memory and Metaphor.* Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Exhibition, 1916-1991. Arts Club Chicago
- 1991 *Sous l'imaginaire, le réel.* Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1990 *Symbolism.* Arthur A. Houghton Gallery, Cooper Union, New York
Chagall to Kitaj: Jewish Experience in Twentieth-Century Art. Barbican Gallery, London
- 1989 *Golden Opportunity: Benefit for the Resettlement of Salvadorian Refugees.* Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
A Different War: Vietnam in Art. Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, Washington. Curated by Lucy Lippard.
Akron Museum of Art, Akron, Ohio; Madison Art Center, Madison, Wisconsin; Wight Art Gallery at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
- 1988 *Revelation: Drawings in America.* Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock.
Museo de Arte, Seville
Festival International du Dessin Contemporain, Grand Palais, Paris
Autour d'Edouard Glissant. Galerie du Dragon, Paris
- 1986 *Americans Myths.* Kent Fine Art, New York
Portraits. New York Studio School, New York
- 1985 American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
The Dilexi Years: 1958 – 1970. Oakland Museum, Oakland, California
New Narrative Paintings. Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock; Louisiana
Twentieth-Century American Drawings: The Figure in Context. Curated by Paul Cummings.
Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock; Oklahoma Museum of Art, Oklahoma
Art américain: Collection du Musée National d'Art Moderne. Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
International Masters of Contemporary Figuration. Marlborough Fine Art, Tokyo
- 1983 *Works on Paper.* Marlborough Gallery, New York
Bodies & Souls. Artist's Choice Museum, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York
Director's Choice, Des Moines Art Center
- 1982 *Jewish Themes / Contemporary American Artists.* Jewish Museum, New York
Biennale de Venise
- 1981 American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
- 1980 *Le Pastel.* Chateau d'Ancy-le-Franc, Ancy-le-Franc
- 1979 *The Pastel in America.* Odyssia Gallery, New York

- 1978 *American Landscapes*. Monique Knowlton Gallery, New York
- 1977 *For Övyind Fahlström: An Exhibition by His Friends*. Galerie Buchols, Munich
American Drawings of the 70s. Art Institute of Chicago
- 1976 *Jewish Artists of the Twentieth Century*. Spertus Museum, Chicago
- 1975 *La Ricerca dell'identità*. Palazzo Reale, Milan
- 1973 *Una Tendenza Americana*. Galleria Comunale d'Arte Contemporanea, Arezzo, Italy
Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Art. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1972 *Immagine per la città*. Palazzo dell'Accademia et Palazzo Reale, Genoa
Chicago Imagist Art. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Seventieth American Exhibition. Art Institute of Chicago
- 1971 *Critic's Choice*. Andrew Dickson White Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- 1970 *American Painting 1970*. Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond
Bilder-Eine Internationale Ausstellung. Vienna
Image/Dessin. ARC/Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris
L'Art dans la ville. Fontainebleau, France
- 1969 *Viewpoints 2*. Picker Gallery, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York
- 1966 *Seul. . . et le corps*. Galerie du Dragon, Paris
U.S.A vivant. Musée des Augustins, Toulouse
Salon de mai. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
Alternative attuali 2. L'Aquila, Italy
- 1965 *Signal, Manifeste, Proteste*. Kunsthalle Recklinghausen, Recklinghausen, Germany
Il Presente contestato. Museo Civico, Bologna
Salon de la jeune peinture. Paris
Mitologia del nostro tempo. Museo Civico, Arezzo, Italy
Salon de mai. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
Alternative attuali 1. L'Aquila, Italy
- 1964 *American Show*. Art Institute of Chicago
Figurative and Defigurative. Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium
Premio Marzatto. Valdagno, Italy
Medaille d'Or, Prix d'Europe. Kursaal, Oostende, Belgium
- 1963 *Salon de mai*. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
Sept artistes américains à Paris. Centre Culturel Américain, Paris
- 1962 *7 Américains*. Centre Culturel Américain, Paris
Recent Acquisitions. Museum of Modern Art, New York
Nouvelle figuration II. Mathias Fels Gallery, Paris
Salon de mai. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris

- 1961 *Deuxième biennale et internationale des jeunes artistes*. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
Huit artistes de Chicago. Galerie du Dragon, Paris
Salon de mai. Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris
- 1954 *Exhibition Momentum*. Chicago

Public collections

Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock
Art Institute of Chicago
Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
Des Moines Art Center, Iowa
First National Bank of Chicago
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculptures Garden, Washington, D.C.
Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Jewish Museum, New York
Lannan Foundation, Palm Beach
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Museum der Stadt, Recklinghausen, Allemagne
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Museum of Fine Art, Boston
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Musée des Beaux- Arts, La Chaux de Fonds (Donation François Ditesheim)
Musée d'art et d'histoire, Neuchâtel (Donation François Ditesheim)

General information

Venue	Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art 8, rue du Château CH- 2000 Neuchâtel
Exhibition Title	Irving Petlin <i>Paintings & pastels from 1983 to 2016</i>
Opening Reception	<u>April 18, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM</u>
Exhibition Duration	April 21 to May 30, 2026
Opening Hours	Tuesday to Friday: 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Saturday: 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM / 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Contact	Ditesheim & Maffei Fine Art SA T : +41+32 724 57 00 email: info@galerieditesheim.ch www.galerieditesheim.ch https://www.facebook.com/ditesheim.maffei/ https://www.instagram.com/ditesheim_maffei/
Images	For visual materials, please contact the gallery