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Robert Fishko, *Director*

GREGORY GILLESPIE
(1936-2000)

Bright and Cloudy, 1997
oil on wood
12 x 28 3/4 inches



Provenance

The Artist
Private Collection
(by descent from the above)

Exhibited

Craven Art Gallery, West Tisbury, MA, Summer 1999

William Beckman | *Gregory Gillespie*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY,
November 16, 2023 – January 6, 2024

Note

Upon closer inspection, one can see that *Bright and Cloudy*, 1997, contains photographic elements underneath the composition, upon which Gillespie has painted a seductive hilly landscape in lushly applied oil paint. The photographic image on the left is reversed on the right and unfolds from the center like a book, forming a mirrored composition that heightens the surreal quality of the dreamy scene.

The use of photography as a basis for his paintings is discussed by Abram Lerner in his catalogue essay for the Artist's 1978 Hirshhorn Museum retrospective:

“Given his fascination with the more bizarre aspects of society, [Gillespie] discovered a source of endless material in the newspaper and magazine photographs which serve as our mirrors onto the world. Sorting and clipping those photographs which struck a response, he explored new relationships and affinities between them. Responding to their suggestive power, he reconciled images which had no common origin, arranging his collages into pictorial compositions from which various themes emerged. Having thus created the basic foundation of his composition, he painted over the entire surface, frequently disguising his source by transforming individual elements eliminating others, or adding to the whole. In this fashion, beginning with disparate photo fragments, he was able to create a unified work which heightened those incongruous and psychological images which had originally sparked his interest. Gillespie's use of photographs must be considered a primary factor in his development.” *

*Lerner, Abram. (1977). *Gregory Gillespie: Catalog*. Published for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, by Smithsonian Institution Press.