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Robert Fishko, *Director*

GREGORY GILLESPIE
(1936-2000)

Back to School, 1971
oil and magna on wood
11 ½ x 14 ¾ inches
signed and dated verso
“Gregory Gillespie / 1971”



Provenance

The Artist
Forum Gallery, New York, NY
Private Collection, Sea Cliff, NY
Private Collection, Philadelphia, PA
Forum Gallery, New York
Private Collection

Exhibited

Gregory Gillespie: *Paintings*, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, February 25 – May 1, 2010

That Seventies Show, Forum Gallery, New York, July 19 – September 17, 2011

Gregory Gillespie: Supernatural Observation, Forum Gallery, February 6 – March 15, 2014

Note

Gregory Gillespie's visionary, insightful and psychologically loaded scene paintings, haunting fantasy landscapes, memorable self-portraits, symbolic abstractions and dimensional paintings defied categorization and brought Gillespie to the attention of discerning collectors and museums across the country. Throughout his career, Gillespie focused his unerring eye for detail and masterful technique on the forces that drive the human condition.

Born in New Jersey in 1936, Gregory Gillespie began his studies at The Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art in New York and completed his BFA and MFA degrees at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1963. Awarded a Fulbright-Hayes Grant and the Chester

Dale Fellowship, Gillespie traveled to Italy, living at the American Academy in Rome until 1970.

In Italy, Gillespie created real and imaginary narratives of European life, often highly charged with sexuality and emotional power. Upon his return from Italy and settling in rural Massachusetts, where he spent the rest of his life, Gillespie turned his painter's attention to his own life and its immediate surroundings.

In 1977, on the occasion of the retrospective exhibition given to Gregory Gillespie by the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., which traveled to Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA, founding Director, Abram Lerner, wrote for the accompanying catalogue essay:

“We can conceive of Gillespie’s paintings as private interior landscapes into which we are transported by the power of the artist’s imagination and the cunning of his hand. We become travelers in a strange and fascinating region where we may experience the metamorphosis of places, objects, and people, and where the simplest things, painted with painstaking clarity, become bewitched and transformed. Gillespie has the power to excite in us sensations which are rare in contemporary figurative art, by reaching through the veil of the subject to its essential nature and force. He is a romantic with gothic affinities, a realist who is also a Surrealist, a visionary and a moralist in whose art the sentiment and unease of our time are merged.”