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Robert Fishko, *Director*

GREGORY GILLESPIE
(1936-2000)

Lani's Game, 1999
oil on wood
10 1/2 x 28 1/4 inches

Provenance

The Artist
Private Collection
(by descent from the above)



Exhibited

Gregory Gillespie: New Works, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, December 2 – 31, 1999

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

Literature

Gregory Gillespie: New Works, Forum Gallery, New York, NY, 1999,
p. 38 and 39, Illustrated.

Note

Lani's Game, 1999, depicts a casual baseball game organized by Gillespie's friend and the painting's namesake. While the inspiration is innocent enough, the painting is fraught with tension as a large shadow looms over the bright green grassy field, obscuring an otherwise bright scene with a cloudless summer sky. Some of the players face outward toward the viewer, watching the watcher. The eeriness of the seemingly innocent scene is quintessential Gillespie as described by Abram Lerner in his catalogue essay for the Artist's 1978 Hirshhorn Museum retrospective:

"...one is conscious of human estrangement and isolation as a constant and brooding presence. Gillespie's universe is filled with strange and sparkling detail, with small groups of forlorn figures in a city square or in intimate landscapes which remind us of those precious Gothic fancies in which every tree and hill represents all of the known world. People seem unaware of each other's presence or accept it tranquilly as a source of self-indulgent diversion."

_Abram Lerner, *Gregory Gillespie*, retrospective exhibition presented by Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; traveled to Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA, 1977; catalogue essay.