

EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 19th

ERIC FIRESTONE LOFT

4 Great Jones Street #4, New York, New York 10012 | 917.324.3386

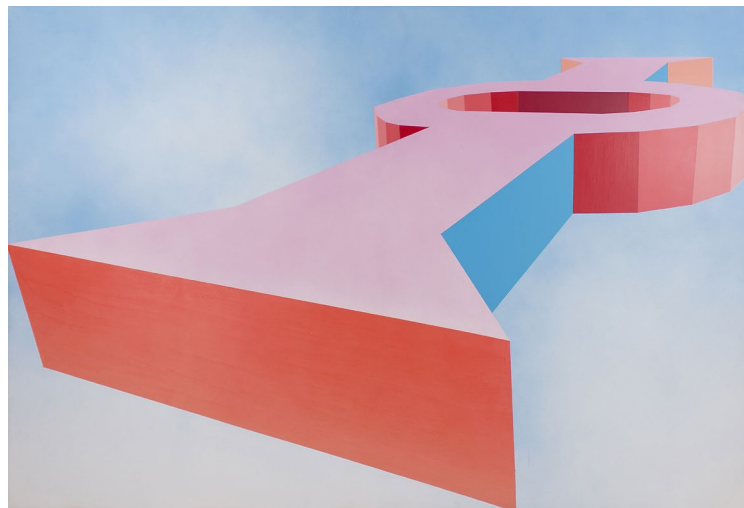
Media Contact: J.A. Forde, 212-358-9516
ja@companyagenda.com

Miriam Schapiro: The California Years, 1967-1975

February 4 - March 19, 2016.

New York, NY: Miriam Schapiro: The California Years, 1967-1975, is the inaugural show at Eric Firestone Loft opening February 4, 2016 through March 6, 2016. This exhibition showcases the pioneering feminist artist's work from her time on the West Coast and highlights her range of styles from the period including hard-edge paintings, computer-generated images, and her earliest Pattern and Decoration works. The show announces Eric Firestone Gallery's exclusive representation of the Estate of Miriam Schapiro and is on view concurrently with The National Academy Museum's survey, *Miriam Schapiro, A Visionary*.

Miriam Schapiro, widely renowned as a founder of the Feminist Art Movement and Pattern and Decoration, employed a wide range of techniques throughout her career. This exhibition focuses on a radical moment of experimentation and success in her oeuvre.



Miriam Schapiro, Keyhole, 1971, acrylic on canvas, 71.5 x 106 inches

As a member of the New York School in the 1950's, Schapiro gained recognition in the notoriously male-dominated environment, securing a spot in Andre Emmerich Gallery's preeminent stable alongside Helen Frankenthaler, Anthony Caro, and Morris Louis. When she left New York for San Diego in 1967, she moved from her familiar network, entering the cutting-edge California art scene. As a lecturer at UC San Diego, Schapiro took advantage of her new setting; the scale of her canvases dramatically increasing and the California landscape finding its way in, her hard-edge painting reflecting the expanse of the coast and modern architecture. Subversively, these hard-edge compositions celebrate female desire through her coded depiction of yonic forms.

The artist's production became increasingly experimental at the time as well, utilizing metallic paints to create the feeling of the ocean at midday, atmospheric spray paints, and reflective mylar. In a radical innovation, Schapiro worked with computer programmers at UCSD to rotate her open shapes in three dimensional space, projecting the digitally produced images to be transferred onto her canvases in order to create works of technical precision.

In 1970, Schapiro joined the faculty of the newly established California Institute of the Arts and met Judy Chicago, with



Miriam Schapiro, Flying Carpet, 1972
acrylic and collage on canvas, 60 x 50 inches

LOFT: NYC

4 GREAT JONES STREET #4
NEW YORK, NY 10012
917.324.3386

GALLERY: EAST HAMPTON

4 NEWTOWN LANE
EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937
631.604.2386

ERICFIRESTONEGALLERY.COM
EFG@ERICFIRESTONEGALLERY.COM

ERIC FIRESTONE LOFT

4 Great Jones Street #4, New York, New York 10012 | 917.324.3386

whom she would found the school's Feminist Art Program. Schapiro and Chicago implemented a program of experimental pedagogy and collaborated with their students to mount the watershed exhibition, *Womanhouse*, in a condemned Hollywood mansion. Her work became increasingly overt in its feminism as Schapiro increased her involvement with the Feminist Art Program, and the larger feminist movement spreading through the nation. In 1972, Schapiro began creating her iconic "femmes", a term she coined to describe her use of collaged fabrics, craft materials, and paints as connected to traditional women's craft and labor. Displayed in the loft space in conversation with the hard-edge and geometric paintings which preceded them, a cohesive story of exploration emerges and Schapiro's strength as a formal visual artist is displayed in depth.

ABOUT Eric Firestone Loft and Eric Firestone Gallery

Eric Firestone Loft is centered on the premise of the art spaces of old New York and offers a unique experience for the viewer to engage with the programming of both contemporary and historic modern exhibitions. Situated in an historic artist live/work building on Great Jones Street, Eric Firestone Loft seeks to engage with the rich past of its surrounding neighborhood, which housed the studios of Walter De Maria and Robert Mapplethorpe, to Jean Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring. The space, still in its relatively raw and unaltered form, evinces a sense of the neighborhood's heyday in the 1970's and 80's. Through a dynamic program schedule, the Loft expands on the gallery's mission of creating a dialogue between contemporary art practices and the major art movements of the 20th century.

Eric Firestone Gallery was established in 2010 in East Hampton, New York, and exhibits emerging and established contemporary artists contextualized alongside their historically significant counterparts. Along with noteworthy solo exhibitions including *Sanford Biggers: Dark Star* and *Kelsey Brookes: Plants of the Gods*, memorable group exhibitions have included, *Womanhouse*, an homage to the 1972 Feminist project at CalArts, with Firestone's curation putting Miriam Schapiro and Judy Chicago alongside contemporary female artists.

PRESS INQUIRES: J.A. Forde, 212-358-9516, ja@companyagenda.com

LOFT: NYC

4 GREAT JONES STREET #4
NEW YORK, NY 10012
917.324.3386

GALLERY: EAST HAMPTON

4 NEWTOWN LANE
EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937
631.604.2386

ERICFIRESTONEGALLERY.COM
EFG@ERICFIRESTONEGALLERY.COM