NEWS RELEASE

Thompson Gallery Surveys the Mid 20th Century Modernist Paintings of Charlie Nevad

October 5, 2016 (WESTON, MA) – Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark is the first exhibition in a series of three focusing on various interpretations of Light & Dark—Naturalism, Conceptual Art and Privilege. The exhibition Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark, initiates the series with a 30-year survey of the mid-20th Century Modernist paintings of Charlie Nevad (Perth Amboy, NJ 1921-1990). Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark is both the first retrospective of the artist’s work and the first solo exhibition of his paintings in Massachusetts. “Light & Dark” provides an overview of the last three decades of Nevad’s artistic production and examines his symbolism and the transformation of his painting technique—from his unique Impressionist-inspired brushwork, to his experimentations with Abstract Expressionism and collage.”

Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark “provides an opportunity to see Nevad’s pioneering painting technique and how he made creative leaps from one style to another at the end of his career,” says curator and Thompson Gallery director Todd Bartel, a former pupil of Nevad’s from 1976-1981 and a visual arts teacher at the Cambridge School of Weston.

In his writings, Nevad describes the role of light and dark in his work in both physical and metaphysical terms:

The true values of light and shadow can only be seen when the relationship of the object to its surroundings is taken into account. It is the unity of all things in relationship to one another that can bring about the true value of any one thing. [artist’s statement, Light, c. 1976]

“Particularly prominent in Charlie Nevad’s early work, the theme of Light & Dark emerges by way of the artist’s strategy to blend all the elements within a painting into a single relationship ‘to establish oneness’,” explains Bartel. “Nevad achieves this unification through the observance of subtle shifts between light and shadow, leading the artist to relate and unite the object with its background surroundings—‘it’s all one thing’,” he said, quoting Nevad.
Charlie Nevad’s paintings have been exhibited in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Maine. “Beginning in the early 1960s, Nevad achieved considerable acclaim for his teaching methods that explore the same concerns as his paintings. At his studio home at 102 North Washington Avenue, in Dunellen, New Jersey -- where he lived until his death on February 7, 1990 -- Nevad painted, taught painting and was a foster father. His work has attracted private and institutional collectors, including the Kahoe Corporation and the Virginia Museum of Art. The Thompson Gallery exhibition is the most extensive examination of the artist’s paintings to date.

“Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark” was designed to loosely reference the 1913 Armory Show—which featured the work of avant-garde European and American artists and is considered one of the most controversial and influential art exhibitions ever held—and to examine his work in light of it,” Bartel noted. “As an artist deeply influenced by the Armory Show’s ‘New Spirit,’ but unlike so many young artists of his generation who replicated that ‘Spirit,’ the reverberations of European and American contemporary art of the day catalyzed Charlie to not only separate his voice from his predecessors, but to cultivate an interior message in his oeuvre with powerful political implications. Not outwardly evident, but inwardly present in all his work is a call for self-change,” he said.

The Thompson Gallery Light & Dark exhibition series will feature the work of Jack Massey (Barrington, RI) in the winter exhibition and Aboudia (Abidjan, Ivory Coast) in the spring of 2017. In addition, the spring show will also exhibit the work of Gonçalo Mabunda (Maputo, Mozambique), at the Red Wall Gallery, located in the atrium of the Mugar Center for the Performing Arts. “The topic of Light & Dark was voted on by our student body two years ago for the Thompson Gallery to develop into a series of three exhibitions,” Bartel explains. The “Light & Dark” exhibition series were designed to support the school’s pedagogical interest in providing platforms for discussion and learning regarding issues of social justice and critical thinking.”

The exhibition will be on view at the Thompson Gallery, located inside the Garthwaite Center for Science and Art at the Cambridge School of Weston (September 9 through November 30, 2016). Read more at thompsongallery.csw.org.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:
Charlie Neva, Boy in Red, 1962
oil on canvas
24 x 16 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere

Charlie Nevad, Untitled [Tree], c. 1962
oil on canvas
24 x 20 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere

Charlie Nevad, Einstein No. 5, 1984
oil on Masonite
16 x 20 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere

**collage**
48 x 24 inches

photo credit: Miguel Pagliere

**ABOUT THE THOMPSON GALLERY**
The Thompson Gallery is a teaching gallery at CSW dedicated to thematic inquiry, offering three differing vantages of the selected topic, throughout the school year. As social justice is integral to the values and mission of the school, CSW looks to provide imaginative ways to spark discussion through mediums including gallery exhibits coupled with a curriculum that boasts a variety of courses to reflect the diversity of society and the world. Named in honor of a school trustee John Thompson and family, the Gallery promotes opportunities to experience contemporary art by local, national and international artists and periodically showcases the art of faculty, staff and alumni. The Gallery is located within the Garthwaite Center for Science and Art, The Cambridge School of Weston, 45 Georgian Road Weston, MA 02493. Visit Thompsongallery.csw.org to view exhibit art.

**ABOUT THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF WESTON**
The Cambridge School of Weston is a progressive, coeducational, day and boarding school for grades 9 through 12, and post graduate. Established in 1886, our mission is to provide a progressive education that emphasizes deep learning, meaningful relationships and a dynamic program that inspires students to discover who they are and what their contribution is to their school, their community and the world. [www.csw.org](http://www.csw.org)

####
Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark Exhibition, Thompson Gallery, The Cambridge School of Weston

Charlie Nevad, Boy in Red, 1962, oil on canvas 24 x 16 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere
Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark Exhibition, Thompson Gallery, The Cambridge School of Weston

Charlie Nevad, Untitled [Tree], c. 1962, oil on canvas, 24 x 20 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere
Charlie Nevad—Light & Dark Exhibition, Thompson Gallery, The Cambridge School of Weston

Charlie Nevad, *Einstein No. 5*, 1984, oil on Masonite, 16 x 20 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere
Charlie Nevad, Mother Love, 1984, collage, 48 x 24 inches
photo credit: Miguel Pagliere