

JASON MCCOY GALLERY

41 East 57th Street • New York 10022, 11th floor • 212.319.1996 • www.jasonmccoyinc.com

BERNARD CHILDS

May 1 – June 29, 2012

Reception: Friday, May 4, 6 - 8 pm



He Who Loves the Earth Must Love the Worm, 1973
Oil on canvas, 45 x 55 1/2 inches

Jason McCoy Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition featuring oil paintings from the 1970s by American artist Bernard Childs (1910–1985).

In the early 1970s, Childs developed a keen interest in environmental issues. Scientific discoveries of the time led him to consider the possible catastrophic destruction of our planet and how living things might survive. He meditated on distant worlds and ancient forms of life, such as insects, which became symbols of survival for him. He took little for granted and recognized beauty and value in every form of life, no matter how small; to Childs there was no hierarchy of life where humans were considered superior. His 1970s paintings fuse Childs' fascination with science fiction, technology, space exploration and the survival of unexpected species of life.

In contrast to their sometimes severe themes, Childs' celestial arrangements of vibrant spherical forms are tranquil, inviting, and hypnotic. These poetic images emanate a warm pastel glow within a spectrum of their own radiating light, generating a sense of translucent depth. Childs' luminous palette was inspired by a visit to Stockholm in June 1970, which left the artist captivated by the city's mid-summer light. All these influences would drive the next seven years of his career, culminating in a body of work that revolved around the survival of the planet, living and dying suns, insect and vegetable life, and the formal qualities of color and light.

Born in Brooklyn in 1910, Bernard Childs traveled extensively throughout his life. He studied in New York with Nicolaidis and Amédée Ozenfant, and in Paris with Stanley William Hayter. From 1966 to 1977 Childs commuted between his studios in Paris and New York. After a stroke in 1978, he remained wholly in New York at the Chelsea Hotel until his death at age 74. Childs' work is included in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.

Please contact Kelly Reynolds at 212-319-1996 or kelly@jasonmccoyinc.com for further information.