

Acquavella Galleries Presents
Riopelle / Miró: Color
October 1 – December 11, 2015

(New York, NY) **Acquavella Galleries** is pleased to present *Riopelle / Miró: Color*, an exhibition of painted bronze sculptures by **Joan Miró** and oil paintings by **Jean Paul Riopelle**, on view from **October 1 to December 11, 2015**. The exhibition highlights how the artists' lives and works intersected through professional relationships, overlapping literary and artistic groups, personal experiences, and intellectual inquiry. Riopelle and Miró worked with the same dealers on both sides of the Atlantic, traveled in the same circles, and even shared a studio in the South of France. Their ideas and approaches to art differed considerably, but as contemporaries, colleagues and friends, it is compelling to view their work side by side in conversation.

This exhibition focuses on work from the 1960s. Riopelle's exuberant, impastoed canvases, including two large-scale triptychs, are shown alongside four whimsical and vividly painted bronzes by Miró. All of Miró's sculptures in this exhibition were cast at the Clementi foundry outside Paris, which was partly owned by Riopelle at that time. While Riopelle and Miró never formally collaborated, there is a discernible visual link between their art that resonates across media and decades. *Riopelle / Miró: Color* offers a chance to reevaluate interpretations of the periods and styles in which the artists lived and worked, and demonstrates both artists' infinite inventiveness.

"We are delighted to present the first exhibition showing work by Jean Paul Riopelle and painted bronzes by Joan Miró," said Acquavella Galleries Director Esperanza Sobrino. "Though they were a generation apart, the artists were friends for many years, and their expressive use of luminous color creates an unusual and interesting dialogue."

Riopelle, a Canadian émigré, pioneered a style of painting in which vibrant swaths of colors were applied to the canvas with demonstrative strokes from a palette knife or directly from paint tubes. The resulting compositions were highly textured with a range of gloss that resulted in mosaic-like surfaces. Artist Pierre de Ligny Boudreau described the artist as one who "delves into nature's seasons and from this feast of color draws a clear, dazzling sensation [into his work]."

It was not until the mid 1960s when sculpture played a major role in Miró's oeuvre. Over the decade he would create nineteen glossily painted bronzes sculptures. Miró combined found objects in unexpected ways, creating assemblages of rustic and everyday elements collected from around his studio or during walks along the beach. The artist used factory-grade, full gloss paint in striking primary hues to set apart disparate objects and parts of objects. He dubbed these creations his phantasmagoric 'monsters' and went as far as to leave instructions for the sculptures to be repainted their original brilliant hues after the his death, ensuring that they remain unsusceptible to the passage of time.

Jean Paul Riopelle (1923-2002) was born in Quebec, Canada. He moved to Paris in 1947 and was the only Canadian to associate with the surrealists. The artist represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1954 and 1962. Retrospectives of Riopelle's work have been held at the Kolnischer Kunstverein (Cologne, Germany); National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada; Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec, Quebec City, Canada; Fondation Maeght, Saint Paul-de-Vence, France; and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris.

Joan Miró (1893-1983) was a Catalan painter, sculptor and ceramicist of international acclaim. There are two museums dedicated to his work: Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona and Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, Palma de Mallorca. Miró's work is held in the permanent collections of countless museums and retrospectives have been held in the Museum of Modern Art New York; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; the Galerie Lelong, Paris; Tate Modern, London; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Albertina Museum, Vienna; Kunsthau, Zürich; and the National Art Center, Tokyo.

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