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Contact: Garth Greenan  
(212) 929-1351  
garth@garysnyderart.com  
www.garysnyderart.com

## Max Gimblett: The Holy Grail

Gary Snyder Gallery is pleased to announce *Max Gimblett: The Holy Grail*, an exhibition of paintings and drawings at **529 West 20th Street**. Opening on March 1, 2012, the exhibition is Gimblett's first in a New York gallery since 2005. Fifteen of the artist's luminous, gestural paintings will be on view, including four monumental, quatrefoil-shaped canvases. The exhibition will also feature a selection of *sumi* ink drawings, the creation of which is an integral part of Gimblett's process.

The exhibition offers an in-depth look at the artist's work since 2009—glossy, calligraphic abstractions in high-keyed hues, many of which feature large expanses of gold, silver, and aluminum leaf. Often, only a few brushstrokes or simplified shapes appear on the surfaces of these paintings. Works in the exhibition such as *The Holy Grail* (2009) and *Exodus Kimono* (2011) demonstrate Gimblett's unique ability to create compositions of incredible depth and complexity with comparatively little.

Born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1935, Max Gimblett emigrated to Canada in 1962. Between 1962 and 1964, Gimblett apprenticed as a potter. In 1965, the artist arrived in San Francisco and began studying painting at the San Francisco Art Institute. While still a student, Gimblett came under the influence of Abstract Expressionist masters Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, and Robert Motherwell, as well as the *sumi-e* traditions of Rinzai Zen. In 1972, Gimblett relocated to New York. Two years later, the artist met pioneering filmmaker and sculptor Len Lye. The two formed a close friendship that lasted until Lye's death in 1980. His emphasis on sudden and intuitive bodily movements had a profound impact on Gimblett's work, one that continues until this day.



*The Holy Grail* (2009)



*Exodus Kimono* (2011)

Over the last four decades, Gimblett has had solo exhibitions at many noteworthy galleries, including: A Clean Well Lighted Place (1971, Austin), Cuningham Ward Gallery (1976, 1978, New York), Nielsen Gallery (1976, 1979, Boston), White Columns (1988, New York), Gow Langsford Gallery (1991, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2011, Auckland), and Haines Gallery (1991, 1993, 1996, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2009, San Francisco). In 2002, the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, hosted a survey of Gimblett's drawings. Two years later, in 2004, the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki mounted the first career retrospective of the artist's work. In 2009, Gimblett's paintings were featured in *The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860–1989*, a group exhibition at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. The following year, the Japan Society, New York, presented *Oxherding*, a series of ten drawings by Gimblett based on Lewis Hyde's translation of a 12th-century Buddhist parable. Most recently, the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, hosted *Max Gimblett: The Sound of One Hand*, the fourth exhibition in their acclaimed series *The Word of God*.

Gimblett's work is featured in the collections of major museums around the world, including: the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia; the Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

Gary Snyder Gallery is pleased to represent Max Gimblett.

***Max Gimblett: The Holy Grail*** will be on view at **Gary Snyder Gallery, 529 West 20th Street** (between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues), through **Saturday, April 7, 2012**. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. For more information, **please contact Garth Greenan at (212) 929-1351, or email garth@garysnyderart.com.**

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