

2017

Richard Lytle Intro Panel

Fairfield University Art Museum

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Richard Lytle: A RETROSPECTIVE

Richard Lytle's connection to Fairfield University dates back to 1965, when he received a commission to design the bas-relief sculptures on the exterior of the Barone Campus Center. This first-ever retrospective of the artist's work, presented as part of Fairfield University's 75th anniversary commemoration, is a celebration of that long relationship.

Lytle (American, b. 1935) has been exhibiting internationally since the mid-1950s. Mastery of color is a hallmark of his work, which ranges from realist to abstract, and which has always found its inspiration in the organic world. Lytle's dreamlike images move across spaces suggestive of landscapes, often in joyful biomorphic abstraction. Some focus on plants and natural shapes that are magnified beyond recognition, while others include elements chosen by the artist for their sensuous colors and patterning. In addition to signature works in vibrant color, this retrospective also includes powerful early charcoal drawings as well as the graphite drawings for the monumental reliefs on the Fairfield University campus. From his early abstract expressionist paintings, exhibited to great acclaim at the Museum of Modern Art while Lytle was still a graduate student, to his recent, more biomorphically abstract works, this exhibition encompasses the full range of media and subjects that Lytle has explored in his more than sixty-year-long career.

We are extremely grateful to Richard Lytle for sharing his artwork and his memories, and for his generous gift of the original drawings for the campus center reliefs, which sparked our initial conversations about this exhibition. We would also like to thank Giampietro Gallery, New Haven, which has long represented Lytle, for assistance in organizing this exhibition.

Richard Lytle: A Retrospective is complemented by a program of lectures and events, all free and open to the public. For details and information please consult the museum's website (fairfield.edu/museum).

Venü is the media sponsor for the exhibition.