



SFAI
SAN FRANCISCO
ART INSTITUTE

**G.H. Rothe
Seven Paintings**

Atholl McBean Gallery

November 7–December 12, 2015

G.H. Rothe: Seven Paintings

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Following G.H. Rothe's death in 2007, the artist's son Peter Rothe discovered a cache of paintings whose subject matter ranged far afield from the artist's known oeuvre. *Seven Paintings* is the first public presentation of these works, which had been hidden since their creation in 1987. Rothe's exquisitely lucent tempera works are stunning and frank pictures of sex between aging couples. The tightly framed, small-scale paintings explore moments of sensuality and pleasure between subjects of an age often perceived to exceed the prime for physical intimacy. *Seven Paintings* presents ecstasy cascading through myriad elements—the pure color of radiant jewels, sheer and slumping flesh, euphoric expressions, ungendered faces, the unexpected eroticism of geriatric bodies, and Rothe's virtuosic layering of paint.

Rothe's remarkably successful mainstream commercial art practice focused on highly detailed mezzotints of surreal landscapes, intricately rendered horses, and graceful dancers. These works were often produced in large editions, and Rothe sold more than 30,000 of them during her career.

G.H. Rothe: *Seven Paintings* is organized by San Francisco Art Institute and curated by Hesse McGraw, Vice President for Exhibitions and Public Programs.

Special thanks to Peter Rothe and Bonnie Levinson for their support of this exhibition.

Untitled, 1987
Tempera on paper
14 x 10 inches

Courtesy of the Estate of G.H. Rothe

About the Artist

G.H. Rothe (1935–2007) was born in Beuthen, Germany (ceded to Poland in 1945) and grew up in Wiedenbrück, Germany. Following early training in drawing and goldsmithery, Rothe studied painting at Pforzheim Academy of Design, Germany, where she was awarded the Villa Romana Prize, which enabled her to live and work in Florence, Italy, for a year. Rothe traveled extensively and resided in New York and later in Carmel, California.





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G.H. Rothe 87



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Walter and McBean Galleries

San Francisco Art Institute's Exhibitions and Public Programs provide direct access to artists and ideas that advance our culture. The Walter and McBean Galleries, established in 1969, present exhibitions at the forefront of contemporary art practice. The gallery serves as a laboratory for innovative and adventurous projects and commissions new work from emerging and established artists. SFAI's Public Programs develop meaningful interactions among artists, students, and audiences through lectures, performances, educational opportunities, and artist-driven experiences. Together, the Exhibitions and Public Programs of San Francisco Art Institute promote an environment that catalyzes the creative processes of its student-artists and thinkers and creates intimate connections between the SFAI community and the public.

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Program support is provided by the Harker Fund of The San Francisco Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Kadist Art Foundation, Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Meyer Sound, Fort Point Beer Company, Gregory Goode Photography, and Thomas J. Fogarty, MD. Ongoing support is provided by the McBean Distinguished Lecture and Residency Fund, The Buck Fund, and the Visiting Artists Fund of the SFAI Endowment.



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Cover
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