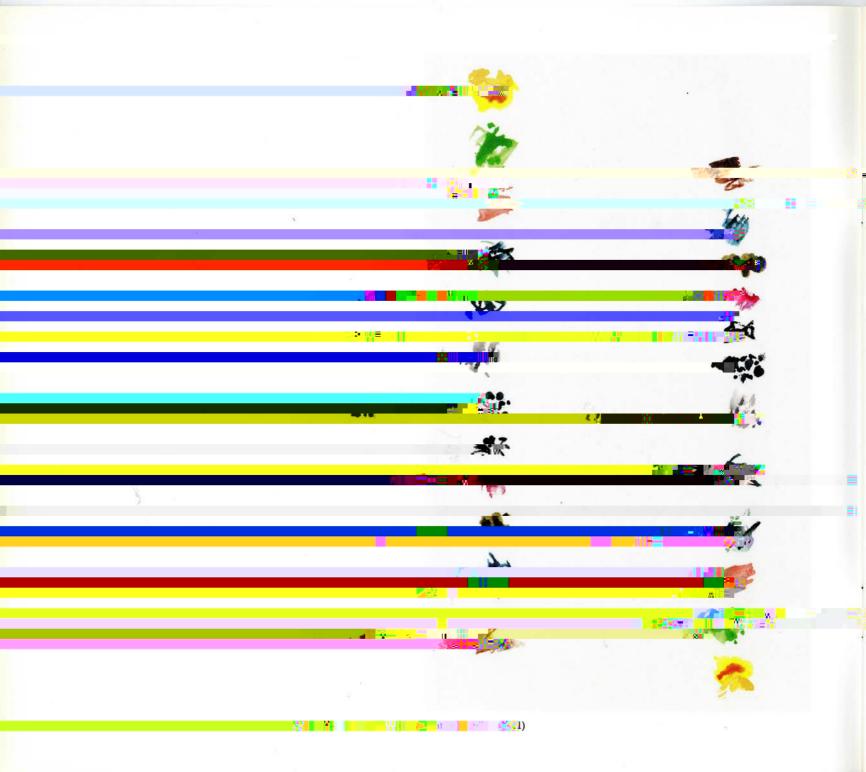


SOROZIO A PARTICIO DE LA CONTRACTORIO DE LA CONTRAC







hor ledgements Ш The third in an innovative so _____ gun in 1984, this exminition again pursues rite riteure or firusion as visual actists. Throughout art history of the have often www.med with the my cit oranches of the fine arts. Because used 😘 👺 nters — brushes, color, canvas of other disciplines, the office of the falls heavily on the side e excitement of many creative people. It is in this way that Mel Tower's watercolors show the pure enjoyment of combining color and abstract form on paper. ne levitably, his pre-octupation with music also comes in his images. vve ale graterui toʻrlank (Þaleði whnb, in nis eigle as I guest curator provided an enlightening essay for this catalog. O'Neal interviewed Powell in the late Spring Ur 13997 during which time he recorded the quotations n the essay. ch planning phase for xh was on and concerner. His collaboration was rranging the of pictures from his collection and others. Inc. have made this exhibition possible by initiating than inders to the n for their an peace rosity in sharing pieces from **∷**adience. uth H. O' I oole Director



The Artistry of Mel Powell

gamering of musical later at the uptown branch 360 Barney Josephson's legendary Cafe Society. Teddy

Edit mund Hall and Sid Catlett The

handling the intermission duties. At ຂາຫຄວາຍt inthac

behind the pisno and urged the evening's and work

ohyjous affection and respect was a culed to be inducted into the army the following day along with hwadted sofoth. જે જેને cleen year olds. There were

men that night and on other rights nt vognbornte ் mmer of 1942, bid வேற்ற இதற்கு இருப்படு வாச்சில். " '

Mel Powell was anything but an ordinary nineteen-year-old inductee; his prodigious falents ware well defining but be the many part of the

pianist single childhood. He had also heard Teddy

Allowing to improvise on the themes of the Beethoven

amusing to was studying. His teacher looked on such

ctrave listening carefully to the work of Jess Stacy and fines. Where the wears of his transport of the conduction to

associated with that legendary jazz club.

It was with the Benny Goodman Orchestra,

the period from June, 1941 to August, 1942 he quickly mist in tovia. He not only held down the piano chair with the big build and its various small ensembles, but also contributed many arrangements are original compositions to the

manager of secure a recording date for himself with sides were released, featuring Powell and some of his musical associates including the plants, happily paticications as a sideman under the name "Shoeless John Jackson, Given Powel and some of his was as a sent-professional baseball player, it is puzzling why he didn't refer to Goodman as Shoeless Joe instead of latifications of Gabler

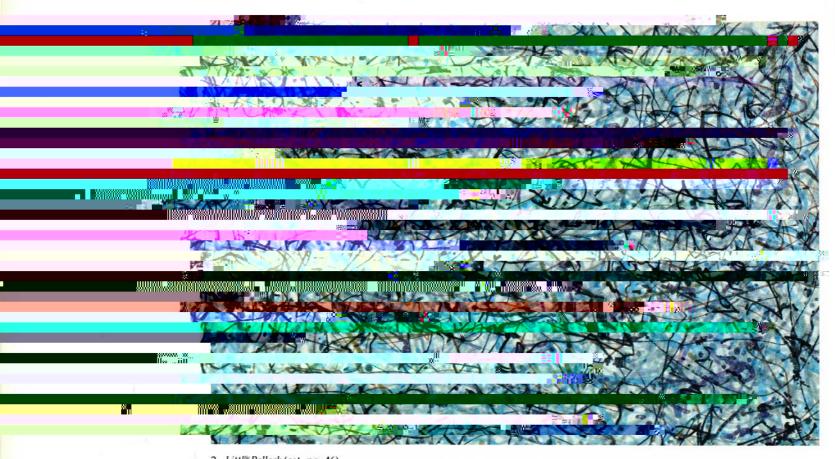
Inese months of crowded activity which Goodman led Powell to a third place finish in the Metronome All lar poll, finishing behind Jess Stacy and Count Basie, which are donks in the count Basie, which are donks in the count Basie, which are with the count Basie, which are with the count Basie, which are with the count Basie, which is the count Basie, and count Basie, which is the count Basie, and count Basie, which is the count Basie and the cou

encounter it.

of the most profound statements of the Twentieth

century was many the Czech composer, Ernst vefore Powell than, "What we understand no

longer interests us and what interests us we no longer understand." The philosophical implications of lener by statement house becough guided Powell's my years. In hindsight, it seems clear a simple lack of interest in the kind of



2. Little Pollock (cat. no. 46)

Maria Ma war. Yet, within, 🚾 few weeks a ster his return 🧱 the arrections in which jazz seemed to be evolving United States practical considerations led him back to Benny Codwan ... He remained with the Bulling mhan Band almost one year as pianist/ reserves joining sine ciclin trainer rating rai is good standing in the Metronome poll. This was however, the last time Powell spent any Wight have ceased being a sed 💆 🚚 🖟 🚾 🚾 sed music. 1942. hbled at lazz for the next rears, creating a gacy deal lent recordings, first for Car tol in the diffiguit and the skill and origin to he brought to his an exceptional 1955 con to benefit the Lighthouse compositions and arrangements appear and to come to him with ease. Yet, even though it was surery and for the Blind which was released on record by • Inal forays with special project, a motion picture such a Star Is moton, it was not enough. Powell's life in jazz i sii allig susiimeallia: Illingia-weesi meerbusuu! va yasoobuur: a major television chosic Not oliven wid met get me call and bot npersudadu" more file the same Itamicht hag it indirection to torsake academic for a senining more ent or the sion To corious hallenge to play last time Goodman managed to do this was it = 1957; of television inating with one with Perry Como. This vo decades. In that same year'l heard my first Mel Count? Powell record and he taught his first classes at Yale. for n exenowned composer. Paul Hindemeth, for his them were couply exc to donal but Powell had easily , , un accounts, an extraordinary teacher. He accepted Powell as a student; the student ant and when Powell became Chairman of Yale's madest amounts of musical substance. Where could Composition Department and a full professor as well. He remained there until the letter 1980's when he was he god!! othered the man arounty of struct and and heat it stee had provided him access to many, non-jazz musicians. Music.Department at the newly founded California Hand ted in writing modest champer pieces to Le Lingtitute of the Arts. some of these players and this experience covilinged The concept behind Cal Arts was stimulating to <u>□</u>

andistracted focus on musical thought. Some f 200 deal of compassion decided to undertake a series of lecture terrible accrayation of political bandholding. When a is demoniacally "With that as background, I decided to give a lecture on some very advanced mass. Fot many people know very much about seriou new music and i out it, nor aid the writers or discuss the tweive-tone system with non-musical in my nondering what to do ... illustrate what certain tivelve-tone manipulations are

🏥 🔣 interact and inspire one another in a decided by non-and majorithment structured, environment. The Music Department at Cal Arts flowished under his guidance and he found increated opportunity for not only ecome a serious amateur tennis player as wen, accommutating a stren run or trophies to it. Then disaster. In the early 1970's various daysland of Col-Arts and Powell found himself part of an institution facing nous sainteunes on the prink of a sintegration. No denattment escaped the turnoil and in 1 1/2, at the urging of his peers, Powell assumed the rage in the institution but at great recording the insti difficulties a Cal. A and cost him nearly a decade of composition. This tragedy, his loss of musical expression and the

resulting intellectual frustration. Froduced something with pected, onorthy after the occarrie Brovost, well began to experiment with water of what he was maintains he was not initially aware of what he was nonetheless fascinated by the work work would happen even time he put his brush to the process of t

expression or integration py y others.

watercolorist:

Provost and I accepted because the place was a shall do that I will be come and that sort of thing seemed to me very easy to do, but I soon found over the composition, removed from

tor me a letter of a someone suggested that it might muse science of feeture as a series of lecture as a sould be a sould

"With that as background, I decided to give a le consente rest la latera maner rest many properties and I thought I would give a lecture which would bring up-to-date the kinds of issues which interest

mprovolvy that wright the wanted

onle who knew nothing technically. The painters

is.J.n.ming.htdc.seminars.Lamable.todiscuss...

rences or

illustratae what certain twelve-tone manipulations are

wise Mineral Property of the Wase

ed what I was

another in a decidedly non-academic, though environment. The Music at Cal Arts noware hed under his guidance ded opportunity for not only composition but to the come a serious amateur tennis palyer as we well, assumulating a shelf full of trophies to hen disaster. In the early 1970's various www.www.ablamadanalamadatifichArts and Powell found himself part of an institution facing ious difficulties on the brink of disintegration. No manufacture and the trumpil and the 1/2, at the unig of his peers well assumed the position of www.personal sacrifice; he product de no new music until 1979. The administrative Was at Cal Arts had cost him nearly a decade

Fcratiea... างปาตกรเองกำนักร page are transposed.

was creating. reschapes it was because he didn't understand what would happen each time he put his instant agrantication. In music, it was often a year or two before he might hear his new compositions instantaneously and indicate he beginning as a constant was larger than the constant was a constant and the con

watercolorist:

"The reason I began painting was a shift in my

Rrysert and describe decrease a tep along was
teetering. I didn't know what a Provost was or what

myself removed from composition, removed from



spreading in currents along the surface of the paper. is technique and soon the frustrated 👢 👣 most simply for his own...... The small restor placed are or attractine tention from the faculty at Gal Arts. One of the state is to notice the work was the partier with the partier tared that the unassuming. ..needed to eynlain to him what ha 3. she brought Pora la rubber plant was the extent of Powell's formal "training the Department of State was allowing their b nosetalil<mark>a</mark>gnig nindence ni any nitebeleda or artistic endeavor. Someone probably said the same thing to rowell at some point, or at least ne was ave re of it related his painting It is clear Fowell has a no particular notion that a note the second an upward order or mings, within his admired greatly. None of them exerted any particular

minuence on miniexcept when he chose to emulate one ittle Pollock" (Fig. 2, cat. no. 46) or his "little Mire" (Fig. 2 at ho. 46). He reaudy congresses that his favorite painters, in addition to Pollock, are and Klee. He even produced wery ne mid-1920's, such as Assulate with reference To A Flowering Tree (1925). primarily the Kandinsky of 1912-14. This is, of course, not surprising for in Powell' eme of things, if Rembrandt represent Mozart and Bethoven then Kandinsky and Mondrian represent Schoenberg and Anton Webern. well has worn many - Lessenis diestinguished and nappily continuing career. His many talents are presented in a modest, often ... Selfacing manner. so many néids 😭 adeavor, the eemis imagination seems is illimitless and extraordy the perceptive and whatever display tion it work as less than very work as less than very His paintings are a case in point. The same mind which created the musical and compositions, Little Copperation Pieces (1979) and Clarinade (1945) also created a body of working watercolor and while one person might rates ve Clarinada to be of far greater significance than Little der equally ercepuve person nugni cusinuss an imit in mit in rid be drawn only to his visual work. nıs modest tashion, Powell has stated: "The root of the word 'amateur', of course, betokens which, a high restriction with no technical skill what soever). What an amateur is in any case free from the

pursuite de la pursuite del pursuite della pursuite de la pursuite de la pursuite de la pursuite della pursuite de la pursuite de la pursuite de la pursuite della pursuite de la pursuite de la pursuite de la pursuite della pursuite

that each of the cictor arte is as unwielding in its demands as the own seed as the hiv esteem for real e one can nope to personal by out the fact while even Winston Churchy wrally regarded the structures avariance and the instormation. I think ad nictures more or less as I read words or indeed that uniola in time was sose that are displayed in recordingly, to give invagin to, our, chiming 🚇 📉 ure'no special conceptual #tra...... Powell's paintings while each are distinctive have extremely delicate, optimism, a completely

Turicuonal consideration. Lacit painting was

at Cal Arts. He had no particular interest in irrestrig the time or money required for a decidio and he had no

worth is cultured deak . therefore was a perfectly

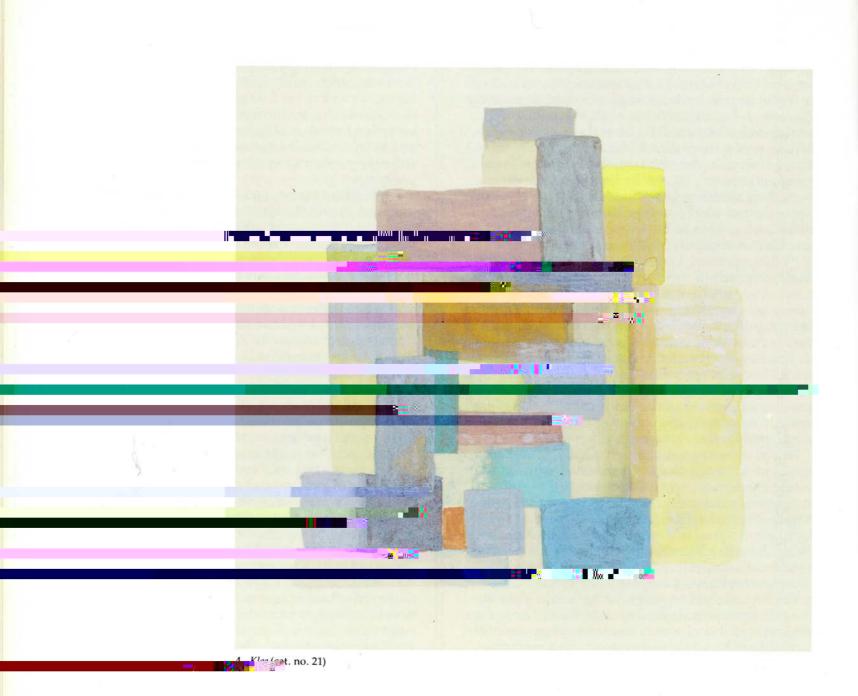
factors which is that the size facilitated Powell's the paintings. He was fascinated with the intricate lines and of the had wo of color and random wood today, a decade after most were completed, he

and today, a decade after most were completed, he details of the malles details of the maintings.

There are often equipe, far more complex matters vegition of those of our serious rimerican continue sers who, for decades, 🗯 ind prace 🐫 e) the very foundations of the musical language of nontonality. And he has often asserted that for the nament part the conditions or hontonauty stang hin of the epic. If "nontonal music": sidered as a kind of analogue of "non-representational art" (as many cultural historians have suggested), it is a parent that Powell's assertion has been carried of the govern his outlook the pictorial as well. His paintings are, therefore, small and it is interesting to note that in recent years Computered in the general range of y difficult for him to accomplish his purposes with compositions of such ມະວັບt, with consuinmate skill, he has been able to do so and he has been able to do the same ion cathroften piish much more than a massive

nore intellectual possibilities.

name a painting is to intermed to restrict a painting with a verbal configuration, to





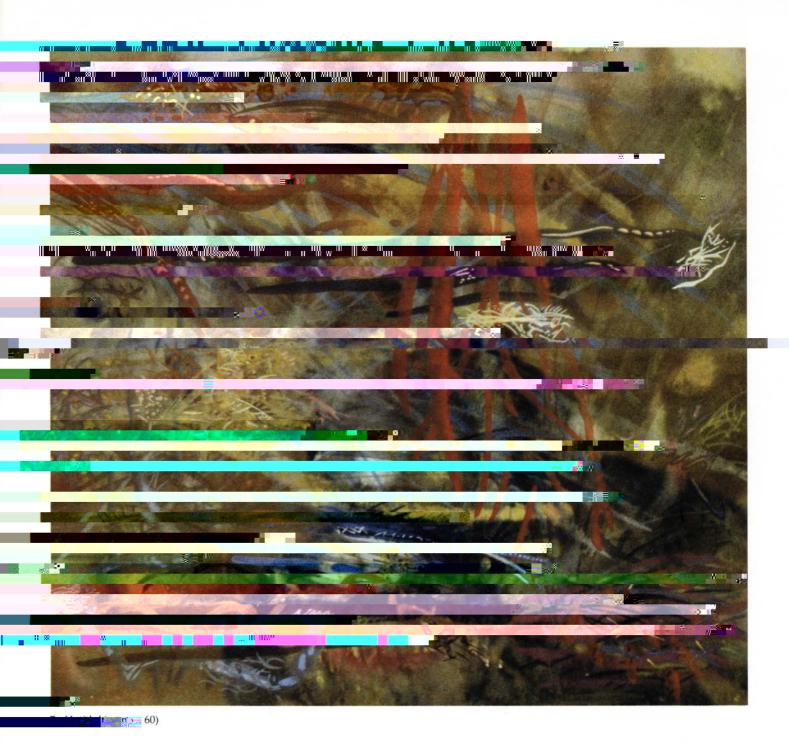
5. Here and There (cat. no. 41)

s not consonant with per plant experience, would not named but rethis paintings, one which he supposed to demonstrate a binary form in music. This munamataum asus wife alaumalaumany sation nificant. eshold of the incoherent — as reasonably good ed entitled The Meaning reality a very high order: the moment one grasps the principles of its organiza Hon of course it ceases to be cuaus. Tennoy rovient al ine show no com revision

moment at which a particular point will appear or

aspectant that pandom process of illustration that houncing

their respective positions within that square frame of at a vast distance www.initian.com trus interaction are or what is known, what is expected, what is not expected, what we raderstand and what things wado ret this ouse of mysteries is always at the heart of the sentention theories we ll programme lack, but for deeper insights into the constitutions of 'chaos' and 'order' as they connect to all of humanities entiterprises." ...ch the same; they are highly ordered despite the chaos they may impart to he time for but a casunation. Within ം പ്രധാരം അവരുടെ ക്രാപ്രവാഗം വാരം പ്രധാരം പ്രവാരം പ് as wen as not, much repetition and circular dens eropment. This paintings, possibly are re than his musical appr. I sitions are affirmations of his belief in the stability in the circult was changing, always the same and the remarkably mysterious effects of the repetition on the human psyche. Powell'alast paintings were completed shortly after he resigned as Provost of Cal Arts and he has **r**⊯ime. His first new come in 1979. The mngs have ne been publicly exhibited. Two were used on record album jackets and except for 113 remain in Powell's possession except the handful which are treasured by the fri and relatives to wash ne has garing them. Some of the printings base a sopcial meaning to Alm and otten the are casually displayed in his Califer and notice. The one some call Jelly Roll (Fig. 6; Cat. no. 12), rmally affixed to a wall in his bedroom with a double-faced tape; the Such no 600 to the sually on a wall in a small m viewing room, mixe in with posters and



J'relateu to iviartha Scott's distinguished a seng career. Others could have been scaled about his sic and the HIL but most of the paintings are kept in a large envelope, mixed in with music over

forgotten, but they are at least renored, a part as as out an interesting creative sidesten when the doors leading to other

surprising most of the paintings are to out of e present is far too stimulating and Will there be more paintings? Powell is a bivalent he feels no but well maybe. He has already had an

bly doesn't completely condanthadhipambiy daysiye nerhans this is why he continues to be fascinated.

An interesting thing is now happening to Powell. In 1000, The lagreer of pay lazzion in the finite in ainitist

wuddeg rappaered in October 1986 obered the Si

Lesberg and Mel Lewis. Some younger new friends also gath size around his pian Dick Hyman, Makoto <u>uvukiltustaalisti päitiilissuasi kanniin minettiilikkannusiusin sini</u>

were astounded with his exuberant, brilliant playing. nta amattevesteemasta proved ne codia zo nome

public trailing after him. The ink approad from these

snipodara concerts in the Caribide n across the United tures in all directions, to the Far East and Europe. It major personality after almost for type of limited appearances, or none at all. There was nothing like it the histographicz; after all, when Bunk Johnson was brought back before the public he had only been absent about twenty years and, untortun inable to play at anything approaching his best. ce as long

but here he was playing better than ever. One floted mitney Balliet, even prepared a piece for The Ever Happened

To Mel Powell?

to Mel Pow et all the simply elected to do something he wanted to do, something he had to do. was a puzzling decision to de even more complex because of the nusic with the

ease jazz oriented listeners, while perhaps unfortunate, was of 🌃 🤧 of the

Tacis it appears the suddenly began painting, produced

succeedly stopped. The la first soing shows nothing purceauty mysterios tappercu, et, rather,

is, of course, a fascinating story and one which is Braff and Buddy Rich and some minifold" trion of successful all and some minifold trion of successful and su the direction of composition, but public adoration can often lead one astray, particularly if one enjoys being led astray. His experiences in 1986 mg that Powell has decided to dabble in

> difficult to turn his back on so many smiling faces no matter how dedicated he is to his composition. The computative napper comes with his assisting and public

bandon watercolors. He is certain far more people
caractering pelasure a from looking at his painting than
listening to his recent woodwind quintet because it is
psychologically far easier to look at a
non-representational painting than it is to listen to

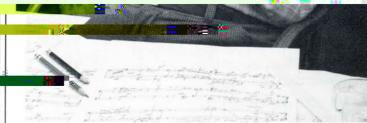
tiny percentage of his time in the direction of watercolors.

paint again, he has already paint again, he has already play another note of jazz, ne has already produced an extraordinary hody of compositions and

to what he has created in either field, we will all be enriched by that decision.

_____Neal
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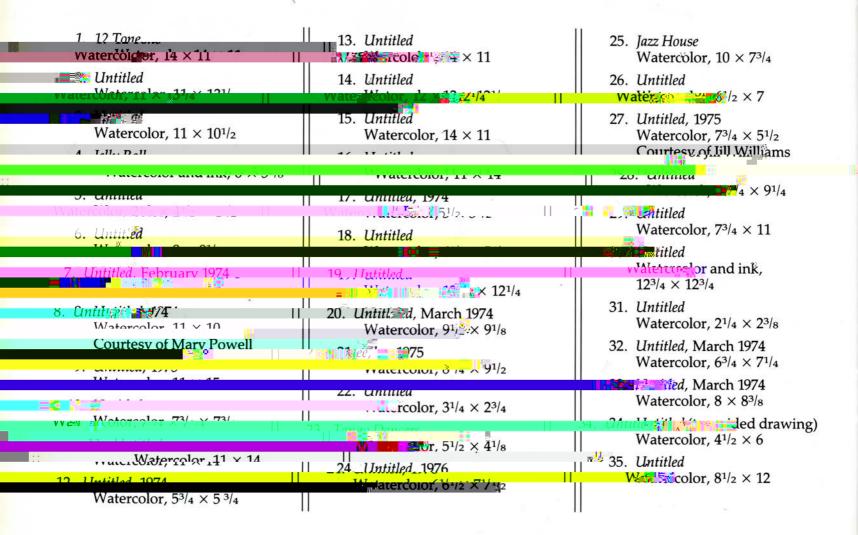


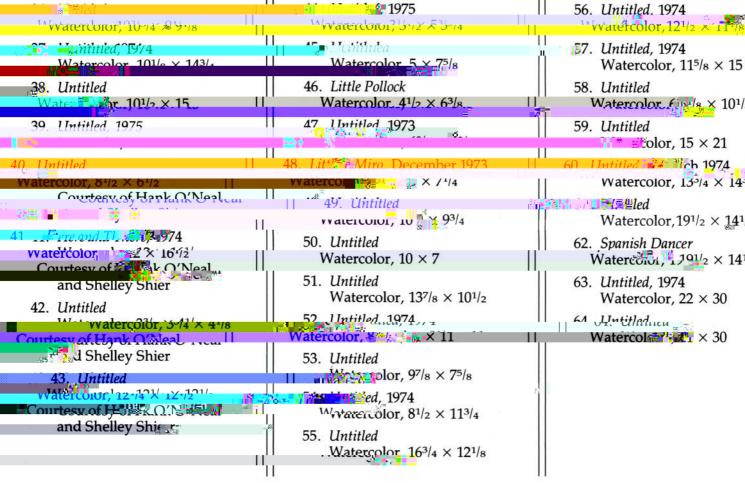


Mel Powell (1987)

Checklist of the Exhibition

ction of the artist unless otherwise noted.)





- 56. Untitled. 1974 vvatercolor, 121/2 × 1178 57. Untitled, 1974
- 58. Untitled Watercolor $f_{12}/8 \times 10^{1/8}$
- 59. Untitled
- 60 Untitled it lich 1974 watercolor, $13^{3/4} \times 14^{3/4}$
 - Watercolor, $19^{1/2} \times 14^{1/2}$
- 62. Spanish Dancer Watercoloi, $1101/2 \times 14^{1/2}$
- 63. Untitled, 1974 Watercolor, 22×30
- 61 Untitledien Watercol \times 30

