

STELLAN HOLM GALLERY



William S. Burroughs
The Sky Is Thin As Paper Here
September 12 - October 31, 2009

Stellan Holm Gallery is pleased to present *The Sky Is Thin As Paper Here*, an exhibition of works by William S. Burroughs (1914-1997). Exhibition opens September 12, 2009 and will run through October 31, 2009. This is the second solo exhibition of works by William S. Burroughs on view at Stellan Holm Gallery.

The Sky Is Thin As Paper Here features paintings, works on paper, and 'shotgun' paintings, completed between the years of 1982 and 1995, when Burroughs was extremely prolific as a visual artist. Born in 1914, William S. Burroughs is primarily known for his seminal contributions to twentieth-century literature. While the majority of his contributions to the field of visual art came about late in life, Burroughs, throughout his life, collaborated and shared ideas with various influential artists, such as Bryon Gysin, Robert Rauschenberg, and Keith Haring.

Unhampered by formal training, Burroughs attacked the picture plane with whatever medium was at hand - whether a brush, spray can, brayer or shotgun - allowing his unconscious to direct the action. In his fine art works, as well as his writing style, "cut-ups" and scrapbook collages, William S. Burroughs visualizes the unconscious, embraces chance, and recognizes new networks of association, contrary to relying upon traditional linear narrative or logical representation. In regards to his own artistic pursuits, Burroughs wrote, "...the door of chance must be open. There must be a random factor: drips of paint down the canvas, setting the paint on fire, squirting the paint. Perhaps the most basic random factor is the shotgun blast, producing an explosion of color into unpredictable, uncontrollable patterns and forms. Without this random factor, the painter can only copy." ("*Nagual Art*", William S. Burroughs, 1989)

The Sky Is Thin As Paper Here will coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the publication of "*Naked Lunch*" by William S. Burroughs. For more information regarding this anniversary and related events in the New York City area, please visit nakedlunch.org.

Stellan Holm Gallery is pleased to represent the Estate of William S. Burroughs.

For further information please contact the gallery at info@stellanholm.com
Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 6pm