

## Press Information

### A Compact Standard Work on Shirley Jaffe – Playing with Form and Colour

The two-language (German/English) publication *Shirley Jaffe – Form als Experiment* (Christoph Merian Verlag) is a monograph on the life and work of the American artist. Totally focussed on her work, she led a hugely productive and individualistic life. By bringing together reproductions of works from all periods in her career, accounts by contemporaries, the latest art-historical research findings and many as yet unpublished photographs and documents that belonged to the artist, this book facilitates a wide-ranging view of Jaffe's colour and formal idiom.

An American in Paris: Shirley Jaffe and her journalist husband Irving Jaffe moved to Paris as early as 1949. The marriage failed, Shirley Jaffe stayed. For almost five decades, from 1969 to her death in 2016, she lived in her studio-apartment on Rue Saint-Victor, where work and life intermingled, where she received visitors, and from where, at a considerable age, she set out on her forays into Parisian galleries and museums.

During a scholarship stay in West Berlin in 1963 she was already turning away from the Abstract Expressionism of her first creative period and starting to paint geometrically and liberate herself radically from gestural painting. The courageous determination with which Shirley Jaffe completed that move by the end of the 1960s made her a reference point – and a challenge – both for her American companions and for the European representatives of Concrete Art. At the same time she achieved her breakthrough on the art market and in art institutions. Today her paintings are on show in museums and galleries worldwide.

Jaffe's works testify to a need for control and to courage in the face of complexity, whereby tension and not perfection was of importance to her: she hoped viewers would feel they were experiencing something, would sense the movement. Her colourfully intense compositions are playful, dynamic and sprightly. This publication, with its excellent creative design, celebrates the highly nuanced oeuvre of an extraordinary artist and remarkable personality.

**Exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Basel from 24th March to 30th July 2023.**



Kunstmuseum Basel  
Olga Osadtschy, Frédéric Paul (ed.)  
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From as Experiment**

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[www.merianverlag.ch/presse](http://www.merianverlag.ch/presse)

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We would like to thank you in advance for sending us a file copy of your review!