

Martin Hurtig
Transitions, Transformations
Gallery 400
Chicago, Illinois
August 21–September 16, 2000

Opening Reception: Wednesday, August 23, 2000, 4–7 pm

The exhibition *Martin Hurtig: Transitions, Transformations* celebrates the artwork of Chicago painter Martin Hurtig. Hurtig began his professional training at the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1952. In 1955, he studied at the Atelier 17 in Paris, and in 1957, received his Bachelor of Science degree at the Institute of Design. He has been a professor in the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1962.

Hurtig has exhibited his works extensively in both solo and group exhibitions presented internationally. He has received numerous commissions for his sculptural murals including from the Waukegan Public Library, Waukegan, IL; the National Republic Bank, Chicago; and a stained glass window and wall mural at the Union Church of Lake Bluff, IL. Most recently, he curated a number of exhibitions including *Sight/Insight* at the Suburban Fine Arts Center, Highland Park, IL and *Chicago-Paris Abstract Affinities*, at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL.

The first impression of Martin Hurtig's paintings is one of utmost simplicity. Only gradually do these works hint that their simplicity is the result of an arduous process of thinking, planning, and organizing, and reveal painstaking workmanship at each stage in the progress of the work, in each drawing, maquette, and final product. Hurtig's conscientious use of technical devices, form, and color are a complex process of formulating a problem and synthesizing its solution in the most thoroughgoing manner. In an essay for Hurtig's solo show *Enigmatic Relation* at the Columbia College Chicago Art Gallery, art historian Sue Taylor thoughtfully offered: "Poignant and beautiful, Hurtig's images are like dancers in an existential ballet. They spring from a rigorous and fully formed aesthetic, and draw their power from a profoundly empathic human spirit."