

Peter Makebish is pleased to present a special one day exhibition of “Judith Reigl: Ink on Paper,” in association with the Janos Gat Gallery. The nine works on view are from the artist’s most recent untitled (2010) series.

Considered one of the most original figures of post-World War II art, Reigl is noted for discarding boundaries and rules once deemed absolute. Reigl defies traditional and often antagonistic dichotomies as she obliterates the distinction between the front and back of the canvas, utilizing both sides of the work and alternates between figurative and non-objective. Born in 1923, Judith Reigl escaped from her native Hungary in March 1950 and spent three months crossing Europe before settling in Paris. Reigl presented her first solo exhibition at *Galerie a l’Étoile Scellée* in November 1954. Although Reigl left the Surrealist group after the exhibition, she never abandoned automatic writing, the engagement of “mental automatism complemented by corporeal movement.”

In her method of “total automatic writing,” Reigl expanded the surrealist notions of “psychic automatism,” turning the process of painting into physical activity and eliminating the division between work and self. “The body is both the most perfect instrument and the most tragic obstacle,” Reigl said. “Ultimately, I strive for what is constantly on my mind, the potential continuity of the signs of existence in the essence of each new work, through inspiration and deed... reconfigured and bursting to sudden and unexpected life, far from the source, to be adopted, temporarily, by others. Continuity brings us, in the here and now, to the great beyond.”

While chronologically parallel to the Abstract Expressionist movement in the U.S. and continuing today, Reigl’s is a genuine artistic revolution employing intense gestural abstraction that is both poetic and Surrealist in tone. Besides the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Reigl’s works are held by Tate Modern, London; the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo. This exhibition overlaps with a small-scale survey presently at the Pompidou Center in Paris.