



James Bishop

By Carter Ratcliff

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Throughout his career James Bishop (born 1927) has engaged European and American traditions of postwar abstraction while developing a subtle, poetic and highly unique visual language of his own. Alternating between—and at times interweaving—painting and drawing, Bishop's works explore the ambiguities and paradoxes of material opacity and transparency, flatness and spatiality, as well as linear tectonics and loosely composed forms. Privileging the nuanced and expressive qualities of color and scale, Bishop's luminous works have been described by American poet and art critic John Ashbery as "half architecture, half air." This volume includes works spanning the artist's prolific career and presents several large paintings on canvas from the 1960s to the early 1980s, as well as small-scale paintings on paper, to which Bishop turned exclusively in 1986 and continues to produce today. Providing a rare opportunity to view the artist's work, this volume is published for Bishop's first solo presentation in New York since 1987, at David Zwirner.

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