

PRESS RELEASE

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HIONAS GALLERY

SIRI BERG: STATEMENTS | CURATED BY PETER HIONAS

NEW RETROSPECTIVE SHOWCASES SIX DECADES OF ACCLAIMED ARTIST'S WORK
EXHIBITING AT HOUSE OF SWEDEN, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 6 – MAY 12, 2019



November 28, 2018 – Hionas Gallery, in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C., is pleased to announce the forthcoming retrospective from Swedish-born painter and multi-media artist **Siri Berg**, entitled **Statements**, curated by Peter Hionas. This exhibition will be held at House of Sweden, located in the Georgetown section of D.C., overlooking the Potomac. *Siri Berg: Statements* will be on view from March 6 to May 12, 2019.

This show, the third in a series of retrospectives devoted to Siri Berg's oeuvre, beginning with *In Color* (2016-2017) at The Shirley Fiterman Art Center, New York, followed by *A Life In Color* (2018) at Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, will be staged in two distinct gallery spaces – light and dark – at House of Sweden, with each offering a different investigative look at the varied interests and aesthetic experimentations of Berg's career as a painter, collagist, sculptor, colorist, and abstractionist.

"It is with great pride that we welcome Siri Berg and the Hionas Gallery retrospective at House

of Sweden, “ said Karin Olofsdotter, Ambassador of Sweden to the U.S. “It is very fitting that we celebrate the brilliant and extensive body of work of Swedish-born Ms. Berg at House of Sweden with its unique light and layout.”

In Alfred Nobel Hall, the gallery’s black walls will be adorned with a selection of Berg’s vintage as well as new paintings, dating back to 1967 and up to 2018, tracing the artist’s explorations of semiotics, tonality and form; the relationships between elemental forms and music, literature and mysticism; and her masteries of geometric abstraction and color theory. In the combined Fyra and Fem rooms, which are outfitted with light walls and an expansive northern window overlooking the gardens, a curated selection of Berg’s assemblage works, wood block prints, and painting studies will be on exhibit. The transition from light to dark space aptly accommodates the contrasts and harmonies in Berg’s expansive body of work.

Berg has continually looked to the elements for guidance – yin and yang, fractals, lunar cycles, and other earthly forces. In doing so, her more minimalist ventures into abstraction, found in her “La Ronde,” “Phases,” and “Black and White” series’, all from the 1970s, were exercises in communicating some semblance of the human spirit in ways that words cannot touch.

As Berg entered the later years of her career, she discovered greater utility in color itself, now largely free from context or reference, as demonstrated in her lauded 2012 series “It’s All About Color.” In this stage of her career, color became the means *and* the end, a conduit for experiencing something for the first time, akin to an infant’s discovery of light and warmth, darkness and coolness. According to Peter Hionas, “The title of this show is derived from something Siri once remarked in an interview: ‘Statements, that is what these paintings mean, what they mean to me.’ I found that quote to be succinct and a perfect summation of her considered approach to the work.”

Siri Berg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1921. Before emigrating to the U.S. in 1940, at the age of 19, she earned her bachelor’s degree in art and architecture from the University of Brussels. Her work has been exhibited internationally for more than 35 years in such countries as Australia, China, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and throughout the U.S. Further, Berg’s work is included in the permanent collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Southwest Minnesota State University’s William Whipple Gallery, Marshall, MN; and Cornell University’s Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Ithaca, NY, among a number of public, private and corporate collections. She is a long-time member of the American Abstract Artists and previously taught Color Theory at Parsons, The New School for Design for over 30 years. She resides in New York City.

House of Sweden in Washington, D.C., houses the Embassies of Sweden and Iceland. Exhibitions in House of Sweden are hosted by The Embassy of Sweden. For more information please visit [Sweden Abroad](#) and Embassy of Sweden on Twitter [@SwedeninUSA](#).

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