

VAN DOREN WAXTER

For Immediate Release – April 2014
For information please call 212-445-0444

Van Doren Waxter is pleased to present a solo exhibition

Frank Stella: Polish Village

April 30 – May 28, 2014



Raków II, 1971, Felt, textile and acrylic on canvas on cardboard mounted on wood
89 x 107 inches (226.1 x 271.8 cm)

Van Doren Waxter is pleased to present *Frank Stella: Polish Village*, a solo exhibition featuring paintings by Frank Stella. The exhibition will be on view from April 30th through May 28th, 2014.

Angular, graphic, and often brightly colored, the works in Stella's Polish Village series were inspired by the distinct architecture of wooden Polish synagogues built in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries and destroyed by the Nazis during World War II. While Stella was hospitalized in the summer of 1970, the architect Richard Meier gave him the book *Wooden Synagogues* by Maria and Kazimierz Piechotka that served as the starting point for this series made between 1971-73. The works are all named after ruined synagogues and villages noted in this book. While these works are not Holocaust memorials, they do function as reminders that with the destruction of these buildings came the destruction of a culture.

Interested in the intricate geometry present in the architecture of these synagogues, including their highly decorative façades, Stella appropriated many of the physical and architectural traits into his works. He paid special attention to the verticality of the buildings as well as the diagonal, slanting roofs and wooden beam structures. The jutting angularity present in the Polish Village works simultaneously highlights the process of their creation and the inherent beauty of the carpentry and design details with the look and feeling of destruction. Using certain arrangements of color and variations in material, Stella is able to create the illusion of three-dimensions as well as works that have a presence in space. Formally, these works investigate Cubist and Russian Constructivist themes.

Within this series exist different versions of each work. Each iteration remains in the same shape and with the same divisions throughout the various versions. The First Versions (I) are made on thick canvas covered stretcher with thin materials such as felt or second layers of canvas that result in a one-dimensional work. The Second Versions (II) employ different colors and a variety of materials, most importantly the addition of boards including plywood, Homosote, press board, Masonite and Kachina-Board. The inclusion of boards alters the depth slightly. The Third Versions (III) have yet another color scheme and utilize cardboard for their support structure and are also the most three-dimensional works within the series with planes that tilt into space. Some works also had a Fourth Version (IV), often made of unpainted wood. These works were not made consecutively, but rather Stella worked on several pieces at once. Two works from the same series, *Raków II* and *Raków III*, will be included in this exhibition.

Frank Stella was born in Malden, MA in 1936 and lives and works in New York, NY.

Van Doren Waxter is located at 23 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021.

Gallery Hours through May 24: Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 6pm.

Gallery Hours after May 26: Monday – Friday, 10am – 5pm