

VAN DOREN
WAXTER

Alan Shields

Rolling Orbit: Prints from the 1970s

May 17 – July 27, 2018

23 East 73rd St



Kool Set - Box Sweet Jane's Egg Triumvirate III, 1978

Lithograph, hand-stamping with screenprinted paper constructions on duplex handmade paper (cut-up and slotted), paper by HMP Paper Mill
24 x 24 inches (61 x 61 cm), Edition 7 of 18

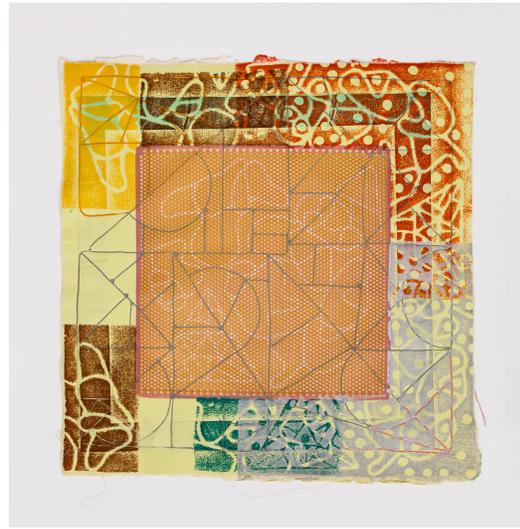
Van Doren Waxter is pleased to present *Rolling Orbit*, an exhibition of 18 prints from the 1970s by Alan Shields, on view from May 17 through July 27, 2018. The focus of the exhibition, the fourth solo show the gallery has presented for the artist since 2011, will be a highly-dynamic installation and viewing experience in the gallery's upper east side townhouse of the earliest prints made by Shields at Jones Road Press and Stable, along with works made at Tyler Graphics Ltd.

Shields's approach to printmaking mirrored his achievement in painting, which was to upend the conventions of the medium. Rather than executing a single conventional technique such as etching or lithography on paper, he considered paper as a medium that was as important as his treatment of it. Shields's use of handmade paper opened up new opportunities in format allowing him to layer, dye, stitch and make three-dimensional forms. Many mediums were incorporated into the whole: lithograph, serigraph, flocking, collage, embossing and relief printing. His experimental approach to printmaking was anything goes, including mistakes that were incorporated into the process of producing these new and early prints, most of which were made in small editions.

What is most evident in this body of work is the artist's pleasure in art making. He draws the viewer to the work through what he called the 'traces of hand'. Looking at *Kool Set* begs the question of how the artist so skillfully engineered this three-dimensional hanging grid. In other works such as *Dorothy Jean* (named for his sister) rendered to mimic a farm gate or the stitched and layered *Two Four Too* redolent of a quilt, both of which are double-sided, Shields demonstrates an exuberance of texture and color that elicits joyful admiration.

The works in the exhibition will be displayed unframed using wall magnets to create a multi-dimensional viewing experience. Those prints that are double-sided will be suspended from the ceiling in plexibox frames inviting the viewer to activate the space in and around the works themselves.

Van Doren Waxter presented works by Alan Shields in a recent 2018 group exhibition, *Alan Shields Project*, featuring the work of Lisa Alvarado, Cheryl Donegan, Aiko Hachisuka, Channing Hansen, Naotaka Hiro, Alan Shields, Martha Tuttle, and B. Wurtz.



Two Four Too, 1978

A two-sided in relief printing, serigraph and collage by stitching on double couched Upper U.S. paper Mill handmade
21 1/2 x 20 1/2 inches (54.6 x 52.1 cm), Edition 15 of 20

About Alan Shields

Alan Shields was born in Herington, Kansas in 1944 and died in Shelter Island, New York in 2005. He was educated at Kansas State University and participated in Summer Theatre Workshops at the University of Maine. He was the recipient of a 1973 Guggenheim Fellowship. Between 2012–14 *Maze*, an interactive installation and the largest and most ambitious work by the artist, was exhibited at SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM; Salina Art Center, Salina, KS; and Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY. His works are included in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Tate Britain, London; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among many others.

About Van Doren Waxter

Van Doren Waxter's international program emphasizes a multi-generational narrative, placing contemporary artists who are actively creating new work within the context of historically important artists. Van Doren Waxter exclusively represents the James Brooks Foundation, the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation, the Harvey Quaytman Trust, the Alan Shields Estate, and the Hedda Sterne Foundation, as well as contemporary artists including Caetano de Almeida, Marsha Cottrell, Jeronimo Elespe, Volker Huller, Jackie Saccoccio, and Mika Tajima. Van Doren Waxter has two Manhattan gallery locations, uptown at 23 East 73rd Street, and downtown at 195 Chrystie St.

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