

# ROBERT SANDELSON

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ART

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## Yvaral (Jean-Pierre Vasarely)

8 May to 6 July 2007

### Gallery Hours:

Monday - Friday 10am – 6pm

Saturday 11am – 4pm



Robert Sandelson is delighted to present an exhibition of works by the French artist Yvaral (1934 - 2002), the artist's first solo exhibition in London since 1970. The exhibition will focus on his *Marilyn Monroe* series, a collection of digitised portraits of Monroe created between 1989 and 1995.

Yvaral, like his father, Victor Vasarely, was closely associated with the kinetic art movement. As a founder member of GRAV (Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel) with Le Parc, Morellet and others, Yvaral was best known to the general public for his graphic designs including the Renault logo, Atlantic Olympics logo and his giant street installations throughout Europe and America.

Yvaral made his first kinetic works in the late 1950s, creating structures from vinyl and nylon wire. In his paintings he experimented with geometrical abstract art, where he sought to create a visual language based on simple codifiable and programmed elements. This preoccupation with numerical art manifested itself in the *Cubic Structures* and *Structural Horizons* series of the 1960s and 70s.

In 1975, Yvaral introduced digital images into his work, creating studies in geometric abstraction from faces, landscapes and monuments. These numerical artworks are like diagrams – perfect geometric compositions using calibrated ranges of colour. Over a period of twenty years, Yvaral digitized a variety of images including portraits of Marilyn Monroe, Salvador Dali and Mona Lisa. He did not intend to pay homage to any of these figures, but chose them because they were instantly recognisable to the collective public conscious.

By using the image of Marilyn Monroe, Yvaral is of course referencing Andy Warhol's famous silkscreen paintings produced immediately after her death in 1962. Yvaral experimented with a variety of geometric compositions and vigorous colour interactions to produce a series of diverse yet instantly recognisable images.

Yvaral is represented in many important private and public collections worldwide, including the Tate London and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He was featured in major museum shows such as 'The Kinetic Eye' at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Strasbourg, France in 2005 and 'The Expanded Eye' at Kunsthau, Zurich, Switzerland in 2006. This year there are three more major museum shows: *Optic Nerve* at the Columbus Museum of Art in Columbus Ohio; *Op Art* at the Schirn Kunsthalle in Frankfurt and *Lo[s] Cinético[s]* at the Reina Sofia museum in Madrid.

*For further information, please contact the gallery on Tel 020 7439 1001 or email [info@robertsandelson.com](mailto:info@robertsandelson.com)*