

SCHOLARS PROVIDE FOCUSED LOOK ON LATE BARNETT NEWMAN

Public Invited to Hear Findings of Menil's Newman Symposium

Friday, April 10, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Menil Foyer

HOUSTON, TX (April 2, 2015) – Art historians, artists and conservators will put artist Barnett Newman's late and unfinished paintings in context at the Menil Collection in a public forum at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10. The event is the culmination of a two-day symposium co-organized by the Menil and the department of Art History at the University of Texas, Austin, in conjunction with the Menil's current exhibition *Barnett Newman: The Late Work*.

Between 1965 and at the time of his death in 1970, Barnett Newman was immersed in one of the most experimental periods of his career. Characterized by his use of acrylic paints, his late paintings maintain his well-known language of narrow lines traversing planes of color, but are distinctly more uniform in terms of paint application, more luminous in color, and among the largest that he ever created. The exhibition presents paintings from the last five years of Newman's life together with a selection of earlier works and includes a selection of tools and materials from his studio, including three paintings left unfinished at his death.

"Newman worked very privately. This is the first time we have ever had a glimpse of the artist mid-process. By seeing something halfway, it helps us understand Newman's finished works, and may even give us an idea of where Newman may have been going had he lived longer," said Brad Epley.

Epley, who led a seven-year restoration of Newman's *Be I*, 1949, will present new discoveries on Newman's material choices. He will be joined by Sarah Rich, Associate Professor of Art History at Pennsylvania State University, whose current book project *Flat: Other Sides to American Abstraction in the Cold War* shows the unintended overlap of the work of artists like Newman with mid-century consumer culture. Also joining the panel is artist David Diao whose own work has been inspired by and draws from that of Newman. Finally, Richard Schiff, Effie Marie Cain Regents Chair in Art at The University of Texas at Austin and director of the Center for the Study of Modernism, will give an overall presentation of the symposium's findings.

Barnett Newman: The Late Work is on view through August 2, 2015.

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