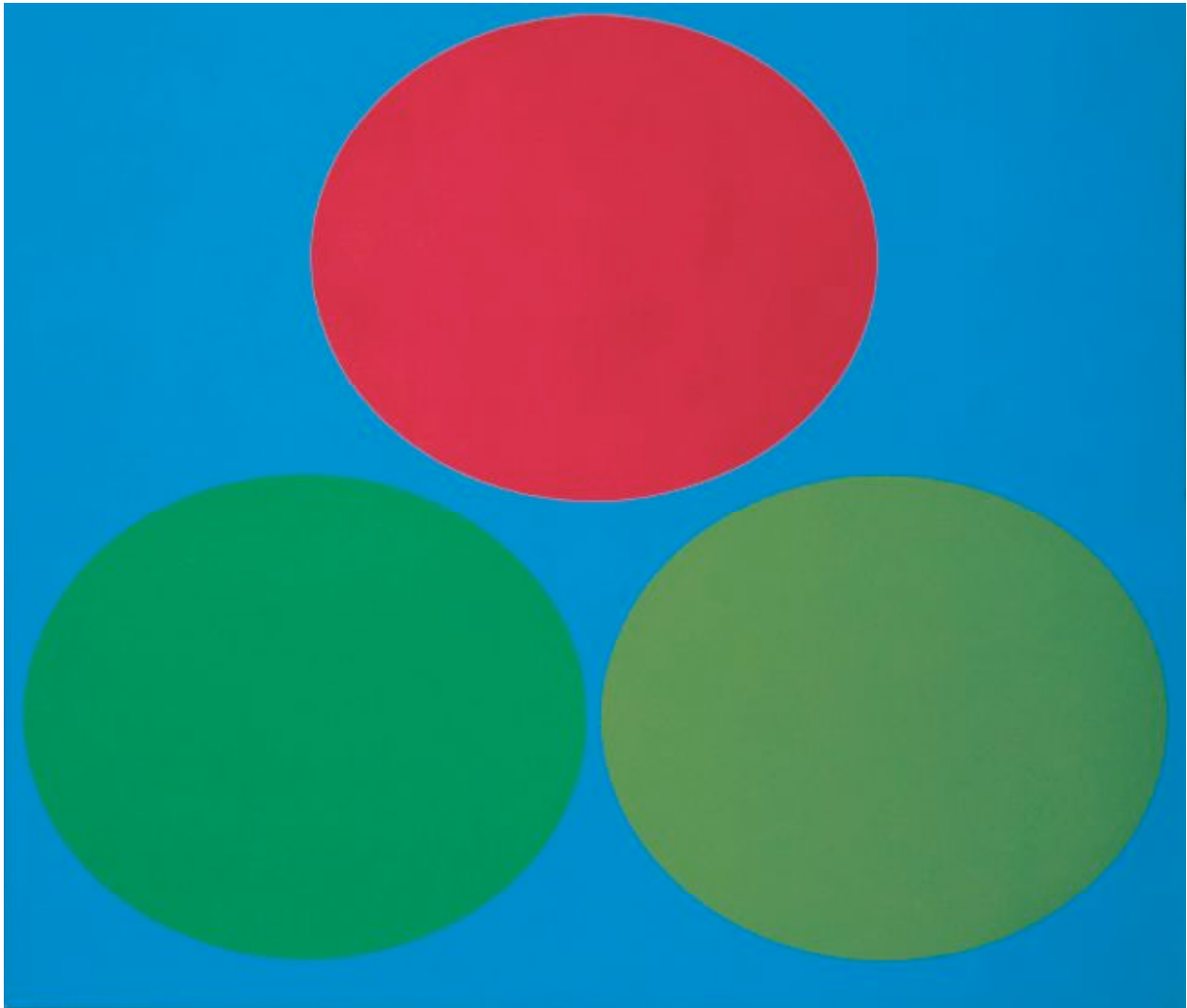


Oli Sihvonen

Ellipse Paintings from the 1960's

Opening Reception: Friday, October 19, 2007, 5:00-7:00 pm
Exhibition Dates: October 19 - December 8, 2007
Contact: Hannah Hughes: hannah@jameskelly.com



Oli Sihvonen. *Triad on Blue*, 1965. Oil on canvas. 72 x 84 inches

James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to present an exhibition of Oli Sihvonen's ellipse paintings from the 1960's. The sheer visual power, subtlety and elegance of his work stake a claim for his place in the history of twentieth century painting.

His work is a variety of hard-edge painting, indebted to Albers and Mondrian on the one hand, but also to Matisse. As critic Paul Goodman, wrote in 1956, "Sihvonen's loving attention to the precise millimeter and the precise hue on the spectrum pays off in a floating and exciting calm and

emotion; the picture is in motion, the colors leave their forms and come back changed. The canvas seems to generate its own light, not otherwise than in a bright noonday sun or in mysterious moonlight; there is a fullness of light." Sihvonen expanded upon a few motifs over long periods of time. This exhibition will focus on the ellipses. Within self-imposed formal limits, Sihvonen was able to invent complex variations embodying his "notions of multi-temporality: flow, rhythm, beat, [and] growth" in a static painting.

Oli Sihvonen was born in 1921 in Brooklyn and grew up in Connecticut. He attended Black Mountain College where he was deeply influenced by the teaching of Josef Albers and his friendships with Buckminster Fuller, John Cage, and others. He lived in New Mexico from 1956 to 1967, when he moved to New York. His work has been exhibited and purchased by major institutions such as the Whitney Museum, The Museum of Modern Art in New York, Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC, The Art Institute of Chicago, and the Dallas Museum of Fine Art.

James Kelly Contemporary is located at 1601 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Gallery hours for the duration of this show are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. - Saturday from 12:00-5:00 p.m. - Monday by appointment. Please call the gallery at 505.989.1601 - fax 505.989.5005 - email hannah@jameskelly.com for more information.

- high resolution images available upon request -