

ELLSWORTH KELLY

Collages in Black and White 1973 to 1991

July 6th through August 5th, 2006

Opening: July 6th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM



James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to announce “Ellsworth Kelly: Collages in Black and White 1973 to 1991”. This exhibition will mark our return after a year and a half to our freshly renovated space at 1601 Paseo De Peralta across from Site Santa Fe.

The exhibition will consist of twelve collages completed between 1973 and 1991. Composed of graphite and cut black

paper mounted on white, these unique pieces are stunning examples of Ellsworth Kelly's bold & elegant work.

Although originally attracted to representational drawing, Kelly discovered his fascination with distilled abstracted shapes while studying in Paris in the early 1950's. Derived from the observation of shadows, architecture, and natural plant growth, his interest reflected themes of visual purity, space, and representation. This became the basis for his many drawings, paintings, and sculptures, including these twelve collages.

Many of these works, such as *Study for "Dark Blue Gray Panel,"* relate directly to Kelly's canvases. Although drawings were often used to explore color, shape, and the visual weight of a painting, in these pieces, the white of the gallery wall is replaced by the white of the paper firmly questioning the line between positive and negative space, its literal and depicted shapes. The sharp angles and gentle curves of the black paper define and charge the white of the paper as well as themselves; the white often becomes its own shape, such as in the piece *White Curve*. Occasionally, Kelly employs a faint graphite line, further depicting a shape suggested by, yet additional to, the black form. Together, these collages offer a striking example of Kelly's exact shapes and subtle line.

Ellsworth Kelly was born in Newburgh, New York, in 1923. His first one-person exhibition was held in 1951 in Paris, where the artist was studying on the G.I. Bill following World War II. He returned to the United States in 1954 where his position among America's most esteemed painters began to take form. Since that time, the artist's work has been the subject of numerous major retrospectives worldwide and is presently included in all of the most important public collections of contemporary art. Kelly currently lives and works in upstate New York.

Ellsworth Kelly: Collages in Black and White 1973 to 1991, will be on view at James Kelly Contemporary, 1601 Paseo de

Peralta, through August 5, 2006. Hours: 10 to 5, Tuesday to Saturday.

For further information, please contact Stephen Husbands at 505-986-0099 until July 3rd. After that date the standard gallery phone number will be operational: 505-989-1601. Please visit us on the web at www.jameskelly.com.

Images of this show are available.