

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FRITZ BULTMAN

March 15 – April 13, 2018

Opening Reception: March 15, 6 – 8 pm

Octavia Art Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of work by historic American Abstract Expressionist Fritz Bultman (1919-1985). Exploring a body of work that spanned four decades, the exhibition includes Bultman's paintings and large-scale collages.

Originally from New Orleans, Fritz Bultman was a member of the New York School artists. Bultman set himself apart from the other Abstract Expressionists with his scrupulously organized compositions, practice of sculpture on a regular basis, and innovative assemblage of collage. His inspiration drew from years of psychotherapy, exploring myth, eroticism, and sexual symbolism. Robert Motherwell stated that Bultman was, "one of the most splendid, radiant, and inspired painters of my generation."

In 1950, Fritz Bultman and 27 other distinguished artists signed a letter protesting the conservative nature of the Abstract Expressionist work exhibited at Metropolitan Museum of Art. The signees of this historic letter were identified as, "The Irascibles," resulting in the majority achieving international acclaim as Abstract Expressionist artists including Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock, and Mark Rothko, among others.

The works included in this exhibition focus primarily on Bultman's collages and paintings. When working on a collage, Bultman would paint the paper prior to meticulously organizing the semi-figurative forms and abstract compositions. Primary colors dominate the collages, which have a tendency toward geometry, symmetry, and repeating curves. Also included in the exhibition are eight oil paintings spanning a time period from 1945 to 1977. While the earlier works are rich in myths and symbols, lyricism and gesture are paramount in the later works from the 60's and 70's.

Fritz Bultman was born Anthony Frederick Bultman III. Throughout his life he received several awards including Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships and was a founding member of the Long Point Gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts. His work is in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Smithsonian American Art Museum, 1 World Trade Center, the New Orleans Museum of Art, as well as several other major American museums and corporations.