

JOURDAN ARPELLE

ABOUT THE WORKS ON PAPER

RED X SERIES **1998**
SIZE

Series: 26 paintings on handmade paper

Each Work on paper

Measure 4 in. x 6 in. unframed

Measure 10 cm. x 15.2 cm. unframed

Measure 14.75 in. x 12.75 in. framed

Measure 37.5 cm. x 32.5 cm. framed

MEDIUM:

Gouache and acrylic, on handmade paper

Signed "Jourdan Arpelle" copyright 1998 diagonally on back

The Series Number and the number of each individual work
are noted in ink on the back of each painting on paper.

DESCRIPTION

The "Red X Series" of paintings on handmade paper were the first works in color after the artist completed her large series of "Black Square" works on paper and her "Black X Series" of paintings on board. Color burst forth at last in opposition to Jourdan Arpelle's strict, self-disciplined approach to structure. These jewel-like works maintain a mathematical rigor while introducing the color red into a formerly minimalist palette of black, white and gray

MEANING/CONTENT

In this series of small-scaled, intimate works on paper, the artist achieves a straight forward, yet complex variety of compositions based on the Golden Mean. The paper is divided to present two of the symbols from the artist's lexicon: the cross and the square. The diagonal lines that emerged in the earlier sculptures are presented here in a similar tactile medium, handled with more control. In the red X series, the artist exhibits her courage and the expression of "creation over destruction" by using a daring medium of textured paint over the fragile background of gouache. The "X" in these paintings is the orthogonal symbol of the union of heaven and earth, the highest expression of creation. The color red in its full spectrum from sepia to dark wine roots the artist and viewer in the reality, the living color, of life on earth.