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ERIC FIRESTONE GALLERY PRESENTS SELECTED WORKS BY VINCENT LONGO

East Hampton, November 15, 2011: Eric Firestone Gallery is pleased to present works by the artist and part-time Amagansett resident, Vincent Longo, in an exhibit titled ***Vincent Longo: Selected Works, 1960s and 1970s***. Mr. Longo, a painter and master printmaker, built his reputation in both mediums over the course of a career that spans nearly six decades. The show will feature a selection of the artist's early abstractions that includes paintings, works on paper and prints, a medium he helped to advance through visionary developments in technique and form. The exhibit opens to the public on Saturday, December 10, with a reception for the artist from 2 – 5:00pm. The show will be on view through January 15, 2012.

Minimalistic and improvisational, the cornerstone of this artist's oeuvre has consistently been the grid, the structure of which he has morphed in and out of with a graceful tenacity. Early on, Longo was influenced by the artist Wassily Kandinsky and by Abstract Expressionism; later and more importantly by the painter Piet Mondrian, whose linear compositions affected the developing artist for both their kinesic and structural serenity. Longo's use of line is complex, often mutating into intricate compositions of latticework, light-filled checkerboards and webs of color.

A tremendously influential printmaker and teacher, Longo's tenure at some of the country's most venerable art departments, including Bennington College and the Yale Summer Art School, touched the artistic lives of several generations. At Bennington, he worked side by side with Clement Greenberg, the artists Jules Olitski, Kenneth Noland and the sculptor Tony Smith, with whom he forged a long friendship. At Bennington the artist's work in printmaking elevated the medium both technically and academically. In 1970 the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. acknowledged his tremendous contribution to the field of printmaking with a retrospective that covered fifteen years of his extensive creativity.

MAIN GALLERY

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Longo returned to New York City in 1967, accepting a teaching position at Hunter College where he taught until 2001. His work of this extended period embraced experimentation that moved through Asian philosophy and ornamentation, with complex grids that often resembled temple schematics, textiles and aerial photographs. Incandescence emanates from inside the web of lines and intricate grid work that define his paintings. In 2003 the college honored him with a retrospective at the Hunter College Times Square Gallery. The exhibit featured five decades of paintings, prints and works on paper.

The art critic and historian Michael Brenson, author of the catalog essay for Longo's 2003 retrospective, said of the artist:

"Longo's art partakes of many of the major pictorial developments of 1940 to 1970, yet it always remains a bit apart. The investigation of energy, equilibrium and radiance through the pleasures and challenges of painting and printmaking has shaped his art and life for more than 50 years."

Michael Brenson

Eric Firestone Gallery is located at 4 Newtown Lane in East Hampton, New York; open Monday-Sunday from 10:00am – 6:00pm; or by appointment. Telephone: 631-604-2386. Please visit our website: www.ericfirestonegallery.com

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