

Howard Hersh

LESS IS MORE:

MAKING THE CASE FOR MINIMALISM

Online Viewing Room

May 20 - July 22, 2021

Curator: Hanna Regev

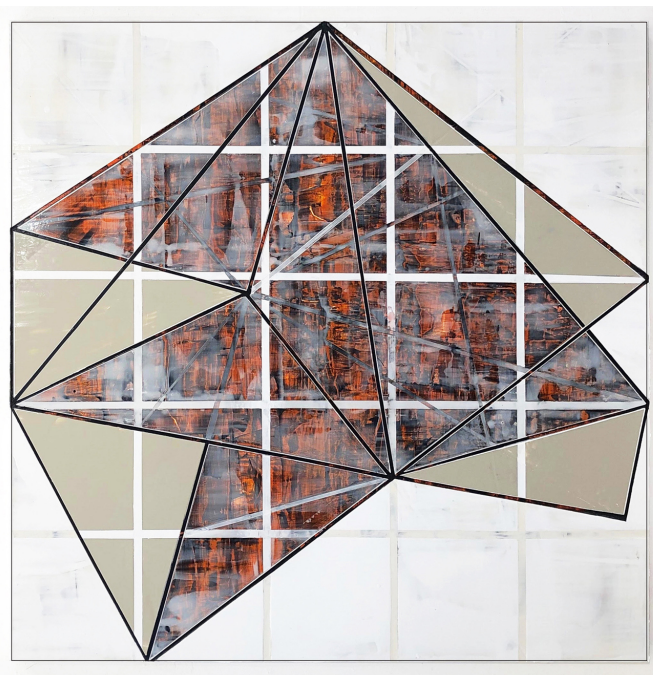


Image: Howard Hersh, *Axis Mundi 20-3*, 2020

"Movement and change are very much what artmaking entails. We must position ourselves by refreshing and evolving, not necessarily "holding our ground." - Howard Hersh

Ruth's Table is pleased to present *Less is More: Making the Case for Minimalism*, a virtual exhibition that focuses on artist Howard Hersh curated by Hanna Regev. A third generation artist, Hersh works in a variety of mediums; drawing, installation, painting in encaustic, oil, and acrylic, and lately, wood work that has transformed his paintings into wall sculpture.

Less is More: Making the Case for Minimalism is a partial retrospective of the last decade in Howard Hersh's long artistic career that marks a turning point and the genesis of a prolific phase bursting with creativity, boundless energy, and inventiveness. This exhibition takes place during COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, a crisis that has awakened a renewed interest in Minimalist art and the realization that less is more. This realization reverberates throughout our daily life and the economy. Through a narrow lens, *Less is More* examines Howard Hersh's personal philosophy of No Separation, his guiding principle that informs his life and art to simply say: "it's all connected!"

With minimalism, no attempt is made to represent an outside reality. The viewer is only required to respond to what is in front of them as revealed in the medium or form. Hersh's flirtation with this radical form of art is undisputed. By reaching under the skin to reveal bare bones or the structure of his three-dimensional paintings, Hersh strips his paintings of any reference of portraying objects and directs our attention to the form. What Hersh offers us are, in his words, "structural objects".



Each of Hersh's series shows a progression and a dynamic that manifests itself in infinite possibilities of growth and expansion. *Axis Mundi*, *Skin Deep*, *Roundabout* and *Migration* capture this essence. His minimalist visual language includes drawing lines, constructing grids, creating symmetrical and asymmetrical forms; the works expand from 3-D painted structures on walls to cubes and modules that end up on the floor. Of note are the limited color palette and the use of a scraping technique, which removes layers and leaves markings as in a road map.

Throughout, Hersh's aims to remove all excess, his works become both transparent and revealing. The elimination of excess is a subtle call to resist consumerism and make a stunning statement of the post Covid-19 era. The past year has demonstrated a reliance on less and highlighted how we are all globally connected. There is merit and urgency in continuing this conversation about the meaning of less is more. Hersh leaves us with a bonus of an arresting aesthetic that he can call his own.

Complete curatorial remarks are available in Curatorial Statement.

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For all inquiries, contact
+1 415-621-1000 | contact@ruthstable.org | www.ruthstable.org
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