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ARTS

Gillespie retrospective on view at New York gallery

A career-spanning retrospective of the art of American visionary painter **Gregory Gillespie** will be on view through Feb. 25 at the Forum Gallery in New York City, where his work has been exhibited for more than three decades.

Gillespie moved to western Massachusetts in 1970. He first established a home and studio in Williamsburg, then moved to Belchertown, where he lived for 20 years before ending his own life in 2000 after a long struggle with depression.



KATHLEEN MELLEN

Art Notes

During his 44-year career, Gillespie defied categorization, painting insightful and psychologically loaded scenes, haunting fantasy landscapes and memorable self-portraits.

At the time of his death, Richard Michelson, owner of the Michelson Galleries in Northampton and Amherst, said, "Gregory was incredibly well-respected in the art world ... his influence was huge in this area. He was always unsparing of his time and talent."

Gillespie studied at the Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art in New York City and received bachelor's and master's degrees from the San Francisco Art Institute. After being awarded a Fulbright-Hayes grant and a Chester Dale fellowship, Gillespie lived for a time in Italy, where he created real and imagined narratives of European life that were often sexually and emotionally charged. Those works were the foundation of his first solo exhibition in 1966, held at the Forum Gallery.

Gillespie's paintings are included in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, both in New York City; the National Gallery of Art and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, both in Washington, D.C.; and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, among others.

The Forum Gallery is located at 745 Fifth Ave. at 57th St. in New York City. Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For information, call (212) 355-4547 or visit www.forumgallery.com.



"Self-Portrait with Bread and Chakras" is among the works by Gregory Gillespie on display at the Forum Gallery in New York City.