

For Immediate Release

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Rick Librizzi: Life is Art

June 29 through July 29, 2022

Rick Librizzi was raised in a mountain town, fair to describe as hardscrabble. Born in the Depression to second generation Italian immigrant parents, prospects were grim. Except, there was some spark of hope in the love of arts and letters bequeathed by his roustabout father, sometime artist and poet Raymond “Raylib” Librizzi. Rick did not ride the rails as his father had, but took up hitch hiking to escape the small town confines, going as far afield as California and the Yucatán in search of himself. Finally, like many poor Americans, he enlisted in the Army in hopes of a way out, but this short stint with the military ended in a fiasco just shy of a court martial. But, if he had learned one thing at boot camp it came while flipping through Life magazine. Seeing a tiny reproduction of Motherwell’s “Homely Protestant,” suddenly a path was paved to a glorious future beginning in New York City haunts like the Cedar Tavern and other Abstract Expressionist watering holes.

Working his way through courses at the Art Students League, Librizzi adapted himself to the ways of an artist, beginning a disciplined studio practice that would last the rest of his life. While he may have succeeded in befriending the remaining Abstract Expressionists he would alienate them just as quickly, having been struck by certain young Turk notions of austere Minimalism, at odds with the prevailing dogma of the generation. He enjoyed early success, his cutting edge talent embraced by Walter Chrysler and Ivan Karp, the visionary art dealers of the time.

Another personality may have pursued an art career, made all the more uncertain by his iconoclast revolt and mercurial upheavals, but around that time he married and became a father. His friendship with Art world favorite Andy Warhol guaranteed him a lucrative living as a private art dealer. The family man in him prevailed and he continued to take risks in his art, not with his life. He was a dealer by day, polishing his public persona to function and flourish at the top of the food chain, but at night, for the remainder of his 82 years, he was again that drop-out, that runaway, that wild boy from the train tracks. And the volumes of paintings and sculpture composing his life’s work tell the story of a poetic ascent into the abstract unknown. It was never a priority for him to exhibit again, but he preferred to create in this pristine state, a world apart.



About ACA GALLERIES

ACA (American Contemporary Art Gallery) was established in 1932 by Herman Baron. Artists Stuart Davis, Yasuo Kuniyoshi and Adolf Dehn were early members. At the time, ACA was one of only three galleries in New York primarily dedicated to exhibiting the work of American artists. For over 80 years, ACA has supported artists in diverse disciplines with singular points of view. The gallery has presented over 800 exhibitions and published over 400 books and catalogues. ACA continues its tradition of featuring artists whose talent transcends their nationality, race or gender by presenting exhibitions, organizing traveling exhibitions, both nationally and internationally, and working closely with museums and private collectors to build collections. Today ACA continues to break new ground by representing and exhibiting distinguished artists and estates. The artistic and humanitarian mission of the gallery still endures, and ACA is committed to upholding this tradition by continuing to support artists from around the world in their commitment to make significant and brave contributions to the field.

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Summer Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 11am – 6pm

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