

# JACK RUTBERG FINE ARTS

357 N. La Brea Avenue · Los Angeles, CA 90036 · Tel (323) 938-5222 · [www.jackrutbergfinearts.com](http://www.jackrutbergfinearts.com)

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June 13 – September 30, 2015

## RUTH WEISBERG Reflections Through Time



"Waterbourne," 1973, Lithograph, 30 1/4 x 42 1/4 Inches

Los Angeles, CA – Celebrated L.A. contemporary artist Ruth Weisberg is the subject of a new exhibition entitled "**Ruth Weisberg: Reflections Through Time,**" opening with a reception for the artist from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13, at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, located at 357 North La Brea Avenue in Los Angeles. The exhibition extends through September 30.

"**Ruth Weisberg: Reflections Through Time**" expands upon the recent Weisberg exhibition at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, presented on the occasion of receiving the prestigious 2015 Printmaker Emeritus Award from the Southern Graphics Council, the largest international body of printmakers in North America. (The SGC's previous awardee, in 2014, was Wayne Thiebaud.)

Included in "**Reflections Through Time**" are selected works, such as Weisberg's iconic "*Waterbourne*" (1973). Here the artist joins both symbolic and literal reflections of light, and in this case, a personal passage of impending motherhood and the emergence of woman. Other works in the exhibition, including her most recent work "*Harbor*" (2015), engage reflections on personal history and of the convergence of art history and cultural experience.

"**Reflections Through Time**" reveals Weisberg's decades-long interest in re-imagining the works of past masters such as Velazquez, Watteau, Blake, Titian, Veronese, Cagnacci, Corot, and Giacometti. In this exhibition, however, reflections of art history take on extraordinary, if not supernatural form in the painting titled, "*Return*" (2014) and its related drawings, as Weisberg recognized that the primary figure in a masterpiece painting in the Tel Aviv Museum, the self-portrait by Maurycy Gottlieb, entitled "*Jews Praying in the Synagogue on Yom Kippur*" (1878) is a virtual twin of Weisberg's son, Alfred (better known as the celebrated contemporary musician, Daedelus).

Through veils of washes and tones, Weisberg brings past-time into contemporary context. Memory is a dominant point of origin/departure in Weisberg's works as her themes also meld art forms as in her "*La Comedia e Finita*" (1977), depicting Watteau's *Pierrot* pulling back the curtain on the climactic scene of Marcel Carne's epic 1943/45 film, "*Les Enfants du Paradis (Children of Paradise)*". Other recurring themes include diaspora and homecoming, phantom lovers and rites of passage. Her depictions of grouped children, as in "*Together Again*" (1975), are as evocative of memories of her own childhood in Chicago as they are to projections of those possibly lost in the Holocaust.

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**“Reflections Through Time”** includes a monumental drawing, *“Island”* (2007) inspired by 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian painter Guido Cagnacci, which was shown in an exhibition at the Norton Simon Museum of Art. Weisberg is the first living painter to have been afforded a solo exhibition at the Norton Simon Museum, when she was invited to exhibit a body of work based upon a work in the Museum’s collection of her choosing. Weisberg also holds a similar distinction as the first living artist to receive a solo exhibition at the Huntington Library, when Weisberg created a series of works inspired by William Blake’s engraving, *“The Circle of the Lustful”* (1826-27), in that museum’s collection. **“Reflections Through Time”** at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts also includes works from that exhibition.



*“Island,”* 2007, Mixed Media Drawing on Paper, 51 1/2 x 90 inches

Ruth Weisberg is currently a professor at the University of Southern California where she was, until 2010, one of the longest tenured Deans of the Roski School of Art and Design. Her first major survey in Los Angeles was in 1979 at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery. The subject of over 80 solo and nearly 200 group exhibitions, Weisberg’s work is included in the permanent collections of over 60 museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., Whitney Museum

of American Art, Portland Art Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Getty Research Institute, Norton Simon Museum of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, Detroit Institute of Arts, Biblioteque Nationale in Paris, and Rome Institute Nationale per la Grafica, among many others.

**Special event programs** related to this exhibition will include a book signing with Ruth Weisberg on September 10.

**“Ruth Weisberg: Reflections Through Time”** opens June 13 and extends through September 30 at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, located at 357 N. La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90036. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, phone (323) 938-5222 or email [jrutberg@jackrutbergfinearts.com](mailto:jrutberg@jackrutbergfinearts.com)

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Images from the exhibitions are available for press purposes upon request.