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Kayne Griffin Corcoran

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Mary Corse (b. 1945), *Octagonal Blue*, 1964. Metal flakes in acrylic on canvas, 93 x 67 ½ inches (236.2 x 171.5 cm).
(Courtesy Kayne Griffin Corcoran, Los Angeles. Photograph © Mary Corse)

Among the 'New Exhibitions on the Horizon for 2018', as announced by the Whitney Museum of American Art, is Mary Corse’s first solo museum survey. The exhibit, scheduled for June 2018, presents the rich collection of the artist’s work throughout her career.

Corse (b. 1945, Berkeley, CA), a trained abstract painter, emerged as one of the few women associated with the West Coast Light and Space movement in the mid-1960s. She shared with the artists of her generation, a deep fascination with perspicacity and with the possibility that light itself could serve as both a subject and material of art. And with time, while her contemporaries migrated away from painting into sculptural and environmental projects, Corse approached the question of light through painting.

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Mary Corse’s solo exhibit at Whitney brings to highlight, the critical moments of experimentation as Corse engaged with tropes of modernist painting, from the monochrome to the grid. All the while, the artist charted her own course through readings in quantum physics and complex probes into a range of “painting” materials, ranging from fluorescent light and Plexiglas to metallic flakes, glass microspheres, and clay.

This survey, for the first time, will bring together Corse’s chief bodies of work—including her early shaped canvases, freestanding sculptures, and light encasements that she engineered in the mid-1960s. Also on display would be her breakthrough 'White Light Paintings', that began in 1968, and the 'Black Earth Series' that she initiated after moving in 1970 from downtown Los Angeles to Topanga Canyon.

The exhibition is organized by Kim Conaty, Steven and Ann Ames Curator of Drawings and Prints.

Mary Corse’s solo museum survey would be on view from June 2018 at the Whitney Museum of American Art, 99 Gansevoort St, New York, NY 10014, USA.