

# CASEMORE KIRKEBY



## ***Sonya Rapoport: An Aesthetic Response***

January 12 - January 26, 2019

Opening: January 12, 2019, 6-8pm

In 1970, Berkeley, California based artist Sonya Rapoport was using traditional media to produce paintings on canvas. By the end of the decade she was programming computers to analyze and plot data, creating works on paper that function as portraits of her data body.

This wide ranging exhibition of paintings and works on paper reveals the rapid evolution of this prescient artist, one which reflects the transformation of high modernist culture into our present information society. This special exhibition is a collaboration between Casemore Kirkeby and SRLT.

Sonya Rapoport (b. 1923, Brookline, MA; d. 2015, Berkeley, CA) was a conceptual artist best known for a visual language that appropriated the aesthetics of science and digital media. Her work is characterized by groundbreaking experimentation with computers and data collection, collaboration with eminent scientists and experts in the humanities, a fascination with categorization and systems of knowledge, a consistent reinvestigation of her own earlier work, and a profound feminist mission marked by strategic forays into male dominated fields. Her career represents a unique path from high modernist painting to contemporary conceptual and new media work.

Among the first women to receive an M.A. in Painting (UC Berkeley, 1949), Rapoport's Abstract Expressionist work was given a solo exhibition at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in 1963. She went on to explore pattern, painting on printed fabrics and developing a personal pictographic vocabulary using recontextualized stencils. In 1976 Rapoport began drawing on found computer printout paper, eventually leading to her reinvention as a digital artist. Her interactive installations used computer programs to gather, process, and represent data. An integral part of a community of artists experimenting with emerging computer technologies in the early 1980's, Rapoport had an active role in MIT Press' art, science, and technology journal Leonardo. Critical recognition of Rapoport's contributions gained momentum in the last decade of her life.

Rapoport leaves a 66-year artistic legacy that includes works in a variety of media, including paintings, works on paper, performance artifacts, books, videos, and web art. Her name is recognized nationally and internationally through her participation in over fifty major exhibitions, including the Whitney Biennial (2006), Bienal de Arte, Buenos Aires (2002), Zero1 Biennial, Silicon Valley (2012), Violence Without Bodies, Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid (2005), and Documenta 8, Kassel, Germany (1987). She was the subject of late-career retrospective exhibitions at KALA Art Institute, Berkeley (2011), Mills College Art Museum, Oakland (2012), The Fresno Art Museum (2013) and the book Pairing of Polarities: The Life and Art of Sonya Rapoport, edited by Terri Cohn (Heyday, 2012). Her archives are preserved in the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley.

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**Location:** Casemore Kirkeby, 1275 Minnesota Street, #102, San Francisco, CA 94107

**Show Title:** Sonya Rapoport: An Aesthetic Response

**Exhibition Dates:** January 12, 2019 - January 26, 2019

**Opening Reception:** Saturday, January 12, 6-8pm

**Gallery Hours:** Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 6pm

For press inquiries, please contact the gallery (415) 851-9808 or [info@casemorekirkeby.com](mailto:info@casemorekirkeby.com)