



**Cy Twombly
Drawings Cat. Rais. Vol. 2
1956-1960**

Edited by Nicola Del Roscio
308 pages, 267 color plates
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I have always thought
“Twombly“ ought to
be (if it isn’t already) a
verb, as in *twombly*: (vt.):
*to hover thoughtfully over a
surface, tracing glyphs and
graphs of mischievous
suggestiveness, periodically
touching down amidst
discharges of passionate
intensity*. Or, then again,
perhaps a noun, as in
twombly (n.): *A line with a
mind of its own*.
(Simon Schama)

PRESS RELEASE

CY TWOMBLY

**Catalogue Raisonné of The Drawings, Vol. II:
The Drawings of The Late 1950s**

The works created between 1956 and 1960, among them the well-known “Sperlonga” drawings und collages and the *Poems to the Sea* series, reflect the period when Cy Twombly (1928-2011), after several sojourns in Italy, decided to take up permanent residence in Rome, thus getting a foothold in Europe with its wealth of ancient cultural themes. The influence of Mediterranean light, occidental history, and Greek mythology is powerfully taking shape during these years. The acclaimed British art historian, Simon Schama, wrote on this caesura: “In 1957 Twombly moved to Italy and, for a moment, some of this hectic energy takes a siesta. On paper, at any rate, the artist seems to be breathing more deeply; the vessel of his creativity a little becalmed. His marks turn discreet, drifting weightlessly over creamily coagulate surfaces, punctuated with the occasional sexy smear.”

It is in the intimate format of drawing and the use of deliberately simple materials such as ball pen, oil crayon, and house paint, where his compositions with their subjective and experimental lines unmatched in 20th-century art unfold their most personal appeal. “His courage in performing looser, more disarrayed traces, is especially apparent in the works on paper, where the dog-eared, the torn-away, the dimpled, crumpled, chewed-up, and grubby are all enthusiastically welcomed into the creative process,” Simon Schama said.

Cy Twombly Catalogue Raisonné of Drawings is an exceptional publication and arguably one of the most beautiful editions ever published by Schirmer/Mosel. Twombly’s works on paper created between 1956 and 1960 unfurl the highest degree of sensuousness, power, and delicacy conceivable between the two covers of a book.

Edited by Nicola Del Roscio, *the Catalogue Raisonné of Drawings* appears in five consecutive volumes. With Volume II, presenting, like Volume I, a wealth of unpublished material, the complete body of early drawings from the 1950s is now on hand. Volume I, covering the years 1951 to 1955, has been available for quite some time.

We will be happy to provide visual material from the book upon request.

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