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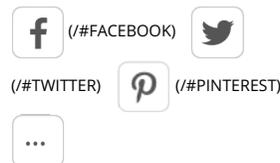
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"American Master. Frank Stella: Polish Villages" at Lèvy Gorvy, Hong Kong

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | MAY 15, 2019



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"Olkienniki II," 1972 Frank Stella Corrugated cardboard, felt, paint and wood construction, 95 x 84 inches (241.3 x 213.4 cm).
(© (2019) Frank Stella / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, NY. Courtesy of Kasmin Gallery.)

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Lévy Gorvy, Hong Kong, will host "American Master. [Frank Stella](#) (/artists/frank-stella-1644): Polish Villages" from May 24 through July 27, 2019.

The exhibition will feature 10 assemblages from [Frank Stella](#) (/artists/frank-stella-1644)'s seminal "Polish Village" series (1970-74). The works on display are inspired by the 17th-19th century wooden synagogues in eastern Poland that were destroyed by the Nazis during World War II. The series marks Stella's first direct engagement with the relief. This is the first exhibition in Greater China ever dedicated to Stella's work.

The "Polish Village" series emerged following the artist's first retrospective, which opened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in March of 1970, when Stella was just 34. At that time, he was the youngest artist ever to receive a full-scale retrospective in the institution's history.

"Stella felt ambivalent about the formal debates surrounding his exhibition in the midst of the turbulence of the Vietnam War, and the 'Polish Village' works comprise his poignant response. Inspired by Maria and Kazimierz Piechotka's book 'Wooden Synagogues' (Arkady, 1959), in which the Jewish architecture experts compiled photographs and line drawings of seventy-one synagogues documented during an architectural survey in the 1920s and '30s, the 'Polish Village' works share affinities with the angular architectures and sophisticated carpentry of the synagogues. Each of Stella's compositions — named for the structures pictured in the Piechotkas' book — appears in several versions that are materially and formally distinct. In Artforum in 2016, Stella described an underlying concept of the series: where Modernism's constructivist line can be traced from Moscow to Berlin via Warsaw, this path is mirrored in reverse by the course of the Nazis, who ruined these sacral sites," says the gallery.

[Frank Stella](#) (/artists/frank-stella-1644) first emerged on the scene in the late 1950s, when his Minimalist "Black Paintings" heralded a new era in postwar art. In the years since then, he has worked consistently in series, pioneering new approaches to form, color, narrative, and abstraction with innovative paintings, prints, sculptures, and architectural installations. A prolific and persistently inventive figure, Stella transforms his practice series after series, making unparalleled contributions to the development of art. With a career extended across more than half a century, Stella both holds an important place in the history of American art and maintains contemporary relevance as his work continues to influence younger generations of artists.

The exhibition will be on view from May 24 through July 27, 2019, at Lévy Gorvy, Ground Floor, 2 Ice House Street Central Hong Kong.

For details, visit: <http://enkr.blouinartinfo.com/galleryguide/levy-gorvy-gallery/overview>
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Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.

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