

# eric firestone gallery

4142 North Marshall Way, Scottsdale Arizona 480.990.1037



Eric Firestone Gallery is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition, **Jorge Fick: A Generative Life - paintings and drawings from The Pod Series**. The exhibition will run from October 5 to December 1, 2007 in the new Scottsdale, Arizona location of the Eric Firestone Gallery.

Jorge Fick (1932 – 2004) lived a mythically rich and storied life. Connecting in 1953 with Franz Kline through the legendary Black Mountain College, Fick made his way to New York and the school of Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning. Going west across the U.S. in a suit Dylan Thomas wore three days before he died, Fick landed in San Francisco to the beat of poets, Robert Creeley and Max Finstein. Eventually seeking higher ground Fick established a studio and home in New Mexico, growing roots in Taos and later Santa Fe.

Jorge Fick's life and art were the same, boldly exuberant and subtly contemplative abstract affirmations of deep and intense color. The paintings and drawings from the Pod Series are marked by an audacious interplay of shape and color; yet, it is the absolute mastery of materials and techniques and Fick's impressive methods of applying color that lend an almost audible hushed vibration to each work. Connecting to the seed pods and life systems that inspired them, these paintings reflect and absorb light with surfaces simultaneously oil-slick and ashen-dry; usually entering or escaping along the painting's bottom edge the emblematic shapes grow like plants or empty out to the ocean in so many rivers and streams.

Executed in the late 1960's and early 1970's, the works that comprise the Pod Series are indeed abstractions, in that they utilize and incorporate every American postwar art movement up to their creation: Modernism, Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art and Minimalism. What makes them so unique, impressive and intriguing is their connection to a time before the "isms". Never a stranger to the impact of graphic imagery and color, Fick's inventive hard-edge Pod forms work much in the same manner as the rhythmic paper cutouts that made the work of Matisse so universal. Perhaps as well, with Matisse and the Fauves in mind, Jorge Fick set out to not merely describe nature through color but to poetically evoke natural feelings and emotions that could grow over time.

Jorge Fick studied at Black Mountain College from 1952-1955, graduating with a BFA. His works are in the collections on the Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM; Harwood Museum, Taos, NM; and the Roswell Museum, Roswell, NM. Fick's explorations of color were not limited to painting and drawing, from 1962 -1968 he served as a consultant to renowned photographer Elliot Porter and from 1964 –1966 he was the consultant to the architect Alexander Girard, contributing his innovative use of color palettes to interior and exterior design projects, among them, the Golden Gate Redevelopment Project, Braniff Airlines Redesign and the John Deere Collection. The presentation of the Pod Series marks the first of many exhibitions featuring works from the Estate of Jorge Fick at the Eric Firestone Gallery.

For additional information and images, please contact the gallery.

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**Image:** *Pod Series: La Bamba*, oil on canvas, 64" x 45", dated 1972.