

# Elizabeth Harris Gallery

529 WEST 20 ST NEW YORK, NY 10011 TEL 212-463-9666

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **"RED RIVER VALLEY: 9 PAINTINGS"** **PAT LIPSKY'S LATEST ABSTRACT WORK** **FEATURED AT ELIZABETH HARRIS GALLERY**

**SEPTEMBER 9 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2004**

### **Nine Paintings, Each A Variation On One Abstract Theme With A Four Color Palette**

NEW YORK, NEW YORK — The Elizabeth Harris Gallery will present *Red River Valley: 9 Paintings*, a new series of work by distinguished abstract painter Pat Lipsky from September 9 through October 9, 2004. The title of this exhibit is inspired by the turn of the century folk song by the same name and features nine new canvases that explore one abstract theme. Each of the canvases is based on a single abstract composition and the variation of colors within it: red, blue, white and black. *Red River Valley: 9 Paintings* marks the fourth solo exhibition of Lipsky's work presented by the Elizabeth Harris Gallery and her twentieth solo exhibition in New York. There will be an opening reception for the artist on Thursday, September 9 from six until eight o'clock.

For over three decades, Pat Lipsky has brought openness and immediacy to the tradition of pure abstraction. The color sequences and cadences in her paintings develop musical relationships, associations that she almost hears as she works, much as the lyrics of *Red River Valley* came to her while beginning the first painting of the series. The vertical rectangles in her pictures form shifting, irregular patterns which are enhanced by Lipsky's sensitivity to color and proportion. Edges are blurred or stated and vary as much as the other elements in the canvases do.

In speaking about the new series, the artist notes, "all the works are asymmetrical, with no color or measurement repeated in one painting. As with the human face, which appears to be, but is not really symmetrical, the measurements look similar but are not the same. The stability of the single composition allows me to explore what the shifting of color positions does to the color relationships and character of each painting, as well as the dynamics of the group."

Lipsky continues: "This thinking derives in part from one of my mentors, Tony Smith, who was obsessed with modular units and repetitions in his sculpture. He used fixed measurements to gain expressive power. There are also musical parallels: Paganini wrote a piece based on a Bach fugue, and then Rachmaninoff wrote his *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganinni*, which was an inversion of Paganinni's work.

The surface of my paintings is smooth, so there is no interference between texture and hue. The richness and depth of the colors come from complex glazes of pigment; some colors have 20 layers or more. Each border is a play on off-white and was created to simulate the look of a piece of paper because each painting was worked out as a small color study on paper first. I did many of these to arrive at the color compositions of these nine paintings."

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Long known as a colorist, Pat Lipsky continues to expand on the vocabulary of close-value color. In *Red River Valley: 9 Paintings*, she subtly manipulates a spectrum of variations within the red and blue groups. For example she works with the differences between cobalt, turquoise, and ultramarine in blue, and vermillion, sienna, and cadmium red in red. A wide range of distinct blacks such as lamp, ivory, and manganese and a palette of off-whites like ivory, bone and titanium cool the intensity of the saturated primary colors. This exhibit reflects Lipsky's belief in painting as a purely visual experience and adds a new level of possibility to the timeless quality of pure abstraction.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pat Lipsky lives and works in New York. She has been exhibiting her work since the late sixties and has had numerous one-person shows at galleries in and outside of New York City. Her recent painting, *Keyboard Variations 2003*, was reproduced as a poster and in a limited silkscreen edition for the 2004 Lincoln Center *Great Performer Series*. She is the recipient of the 2001 Hassam Speicher Betts Funds Purchase Prize awarded by the American Academy of Arts & Letters; a 2000 Krasner-Pollock Foundation Grant and numerous other awards and grants. Her work is included in over twenty major museum collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Brooklyn Museum, the Walker Art Center and the Wadsworth Athenaeum. Microsoft Collection has recently acquired a painting.

The **Elizabeth Harris Gallery** is located at 529 West 20th Street  
and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 6.

CONTACT BILL CARROLL, *DIRECTOR* FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND VISUALS