



**MICHAEL
HOROVITZ**

(1935 - 2021)

**SIXTIES PAINTINGS
& OTHER WORKS**

BERMONDSEY

PROJECT SPACE



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*A Blind Auction of original artwork
by Michael Horovitz
to raise funds to save the
HOROVITZ ARCHIVE
of important
literary material 1948-2021*

Michael Horovitz OBE (1935-2021) was a prolific poet, editor and visual artist. Well known for his trailblazing role in the Beat Poetry movement and empoweringly energetic contribution to the British counter-culture. Michael was born in Frankfurt, then Nazi Germany, but the Horovitz family escaped to Britain and Michael attended Oxford University during the 1950s. While studying English at Brasenose he established *New Departures*, a poetry periodical which would endure for the next fifty years. A notable milestone for Horovitz was his appearance at the 1965 *International Poetry Incarnation* at the Royal Albert Hall, alongside Allen Ginsberg. He wrote, published and translated throughout his life, including several books showcasing his own visual art practice.

In conversation with Mike von Joel, Artistic Director of Bermondsey Project Space, Horovitz commented:

“Most of us who produce art and have built up an archive are constantly stricken with the anxiety that most of our activity will be piss in the wind in a few years. In my case, I have seven to nine rooms of material all over the place, full of correspondence and archives, some of which are very valuable. The job of collating and sorting the chaff from the grain is a huge job that I don’t have the money or the staff to deal with. I have many reel-to-reel tapes, cassettes and DVDs from over the years with marvellous recordings of (like) Stevie Smith, William Burroughs and the Beat writers and all the artists I have worked with.

I have guilt bordering on panic that this far-reaching material, going back to the 1950s, will just end up in landfill somewhere.”



Anyone who has ever been active in the London arts ‘scene’ over the last 50 years – and more – would likely have come across Michael Horovitz. In later years his slight, often bedraggled figure, in a mish-mash of vibrant colours, would appear laden with a tote full of his latest publication – yours for a ready tenner. I can’t recall the number of books I bought off him in the street over the years – and then promptly put down somewhere and lost; but never the autographed copies of *New Departures* or his other titles, which I still treasure. I suspect Michael, like myself, suffered from PTSD (Post Traumatic Sixties Disillusion).

However, he spent his life keeping alive the flame of the counter-culture and its core tenet that individual creativity and vision could change society and that the magical power of words not *could* – but *would* – triumph. And he believed in painting in much the same way.

Michael was a truly remarkable man. He wrote poetry, produced it, promoted it, supported and encouraged its creators by apparently magicking funds out of thin air. He tirelessly devoted himself to the spirituality of words, as a poet, songwriter-singer, literary journalist and editor-publisher. By the end of his life he was loved and appreciated by the great and the good across the literary world and accolades from the famous are as common as trees. As news of his death at 86 spread, not a few were surprised to learn of his OBE, a little incongruous perhaps, but well deserved. **Mike von Joel**



SIXTIES PAINTINGS & OTHER WORKS

CATALOGUE

Please Note:

All pictures are framed unless otherwise noted.

*Some slight cropping may have occurred in
preparing these illustrations.*

Sizing: Height x Width

David Hockney
Untitled (Michael Horovitz)
drawing c.1980

No. 1

Trigger Release (after Alan Davie)

oil, enamel and acrylic on card 1963
32 x 52cm

Est. £2,500 - £3,500



No. 2
Dizzy with Strings

mixed media and collage 1963
67 x 80cm

Est. £4,500 - £5,500



No. 3
Sunflower Snow

oil, enamel and acrylic on card 1963
32 x 52cm

Est. £2,500 - £3,500



No. 4
What the Jungle Jig Saw

oil, enamel and collage on card 1964
57 x 39cm

Est. £3,000 - £4,000



No. 5
Open Market

oil and collage on board 1964
96 x 122cm

Est. £7,000 - £8,000



No. 6

Frame on Frame

enamel, emulsion and collage
on canvas 1967
83 x 105cm

Est. £6,000 - £7,000



No. 7
Spring Rush

oil, enamel and collage on board 1967
36 x 43cm

Est. £2,000 - £3,000



No. 8

By Yon Ronnie Scotland

oil and collage on canvas 1967-89
50 x 60cm

Est. £3,500 - £4,500



No. 9
And There Was Plight
collage on board 1968
118 x 114cm
Est. £3,500 - £4,500



No. 10
*Bulls Rush in Where Non-Swimmers Fear
to
Shred Wheat*

oil and enamel on canvas 1968
32 x 40cm

Est. £2,000 - £3,000



No. 11
*I Am White, But O My Soul Is
Black (Self Portrait)*

oil on canvas 1969
46 x 56cm

Est. £3,000 - £4,000



No. 12
*Time Wounds All Heels (Title from
Groucho in the Marx Brothers' Go West)*

collage, oil and enamel on board 1969
42 x 50cm

Est. £2,500 - £3,500



No. 13
The Saxman Cometh
(for Alan Davie)

oil and collage on board 1970
66 x 63cm

Est. £4,000 - £5,000



No. 14
Still Life

oil and collage on board 1971
65 x 67cm

Est. £4,000 - £5,000



No. 15
Forests of the Night

oil and collage on board 1995
91 x 82cm

Est. £5,500 - £6,500



No. 16
Blue Monkscape

oil and enamel on board 2007
47 x 60cm

Est. £3,500 - £4,500



No. 17
A Night on the Bob Mountain
oil and enamel on board 2007
47 x 60cm

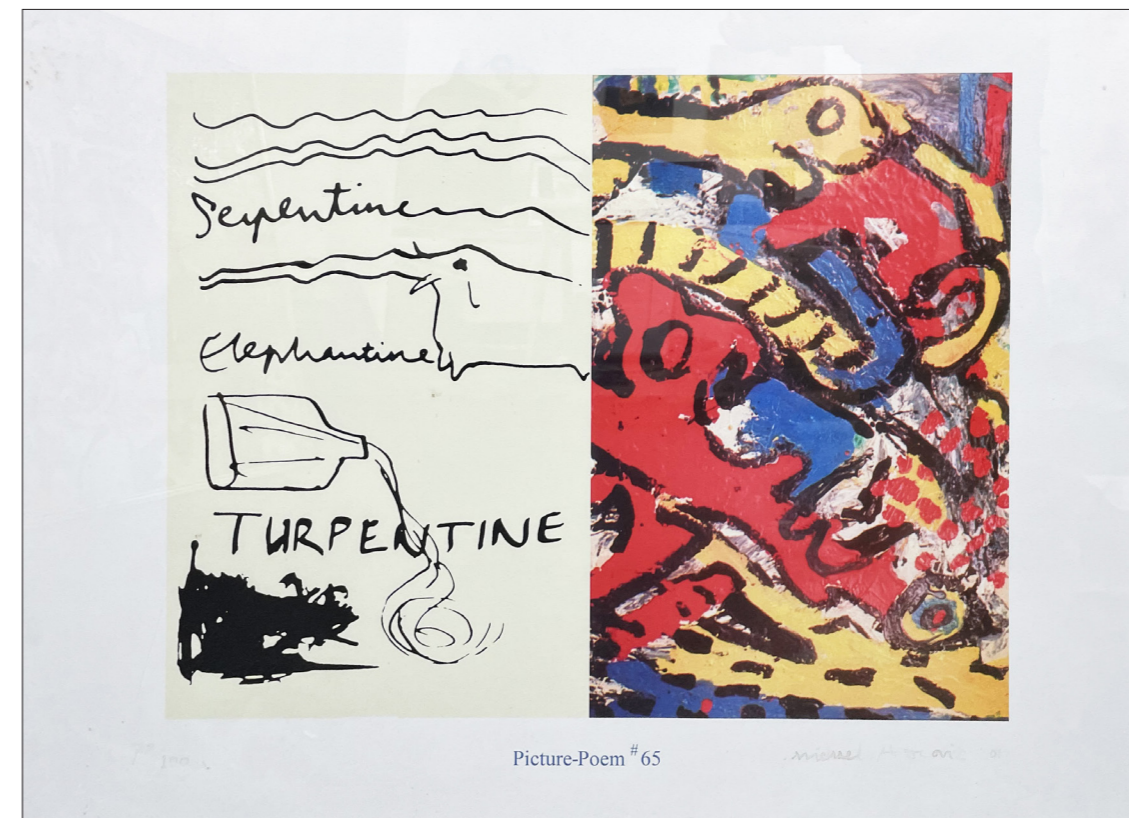
Est. £3,500 - £4,500



No. 18
Serpentine, Elephantine, Turpentine!
Picture Poem #65

giclée print 1965
56 x 76cm

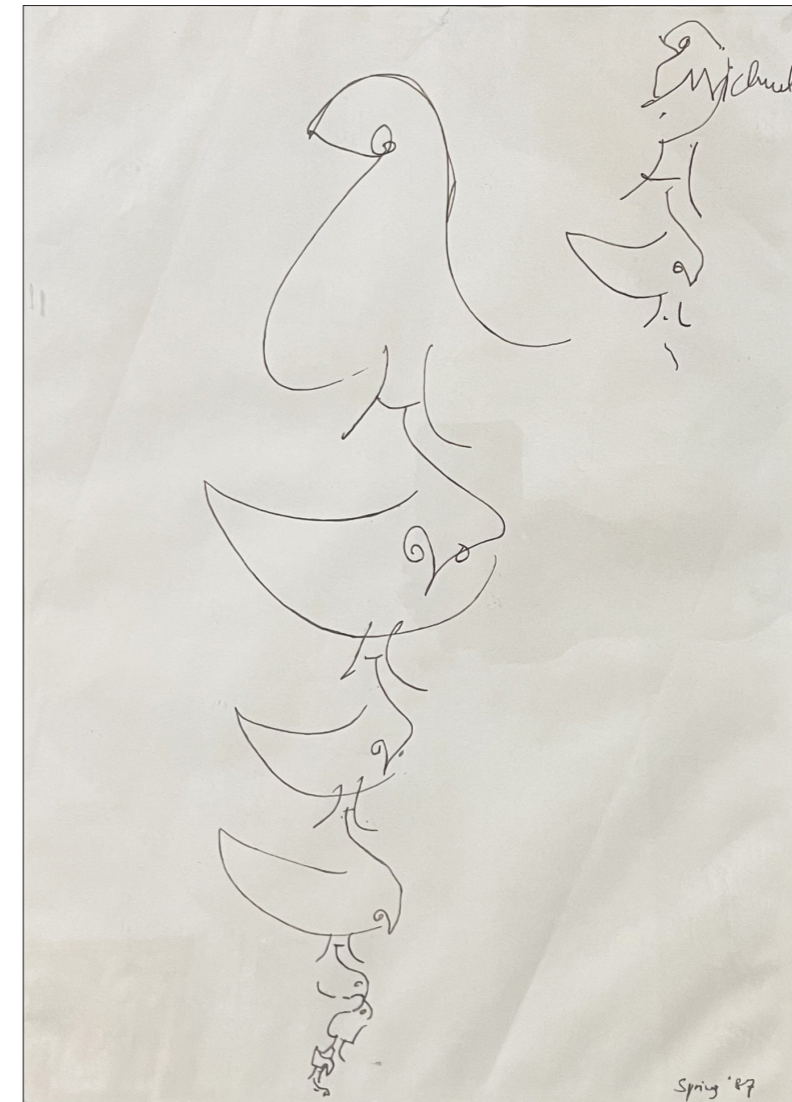
Est. £300 - £500



No. 19
Bird on Bird

pen and ink on paper 1987
42 x 30cm

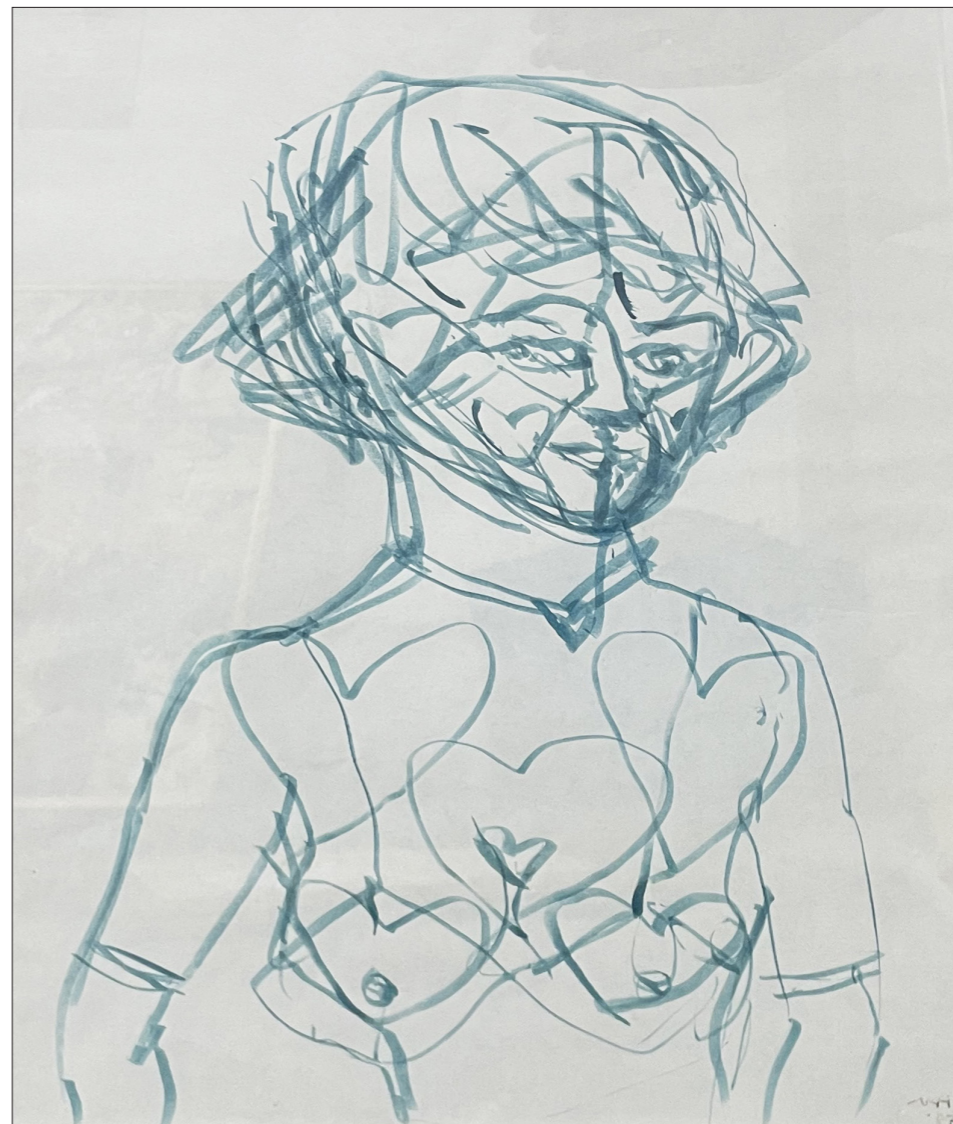
Est. £400 - £600



No. 20
Portrait

ink on paper 1987
50 x 30cm

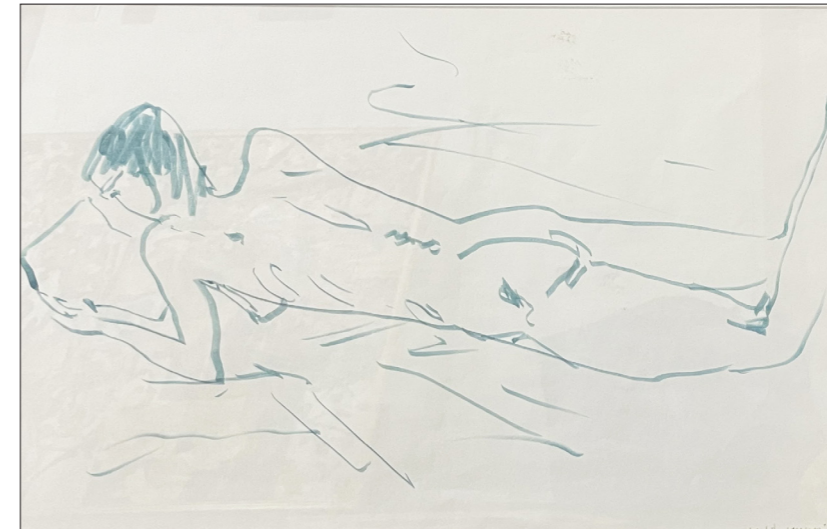
Est. £450 - £650



No. 21
Sunny Afternoon #1

pen and ink on paper 1987
28 x 40cm

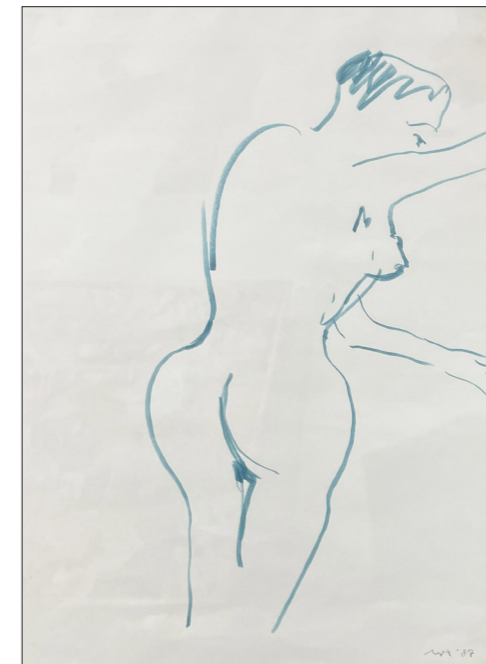
Est. £350 - £550



No. 22
Sunny Afternoon #3

pen and ink on paper 1987
41 x 28cm

Est. £350 - £550



No. 23
The Peaceable Kingdom

collage 1970
26 x 35cm

Est. £800 - £1200





Postcard from Ireland is one of Michael's early works, dating from the mid-1960s. This large painting held a special place in his heart and he regarded it as one of his most important creations.

Michael often indicated he hoped it would be acquired by a major institution or museum, and if that organisation had strong links to Ireland then so much the better.

The Horovitz Estate is hoping that this vision can become a reality in the near future.

No.24

Postcard From Ireland
oil, enamel and collage on board c.1966
246cm x 125cm

Est. £12,000 - £14,000

NOTES on a BLIND AUCTION

The PICTURES have ESTIMATES shown as a guide to the likely prices to be achieved based on the artist's sales history – but any bid is accepted.

All artwork in the BPS exhibition will be numbered according to the catalogue (this can be accessed online during event and there will be illustrated lists on the display in the Gallery).

Visitors will get an A4 picture list with estimates showing AND on the REVERSE will be a **bidding form** and also a DONATION form.

HOW IT WORKS

Visitors should leave a 'best offer' signed bid form(s) at the reception/bar desk at the gallery – or call **0203 441 5152** to register your bid(s).

Telephone bids are **only accepted** from **11am Thursday 7th September** until **Midday on Saturday 9th September**.

Donations can be accepted anytime in person via your credit card.

Successful bidders will be notified after 6pm on Saturday 9th September

BPS regrets no correspondence can be entered into regarding failed bids

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ALL SALES PROFITS WILL BE CREDITED TO THE *MICHAEL HOROVITZ ESTATE* TO HELP SECURE THE *MICHAEL HOROVITZ ARCHIVE* FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY.

BLIND AUCTION place your bid

Take the number of the artwork you wish to bid to purchase and **enter your best price** below. **You may offer on as many items as you wish.**

NAME CONTACT PHONE
EMAIL @

Picture number Maximum Bid

Picture number Maximum Bid

Picture number Maximum Bid

PLEASE NOTE that by entering into the bidding process you are creating a legal contract to purchase the artwork if your offer is accepted as the winning bid.

SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY **SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER**
PLEASE hand completed form to Bar/Reception

Vanessa has done amazing work organising Michael's archive in London, both with him and in the last year [...] the material stored in Gloucestershire is in desperate need of sorting. There is much to do, and the more time that can be bought - until a library or the like can take the archive on - the better.

ADAM HOROVITZ 2023



Bermondsey Project Space is a not-for-profit arts platform in Bermondsey, Southwark. It was founded in 2015 with sponsorship from *Olympus* in association with *State/F22* magazine.

**183-185 Bermondsey Street,
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Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 5.45pm
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www.project-space.london



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