In 1955 the Terrain Gallery opened with the extravagant idea that 1) beauty could not only be talked about but defined; 2) that all the arts had something in common; 3) that art and life were integrally related. All this was in the great philosophy of Aesthetic Realism as we had studied it with its founder, critic and poet Eli Siegel. In America in 1955 the idea of talking about beauty was not au courant. We did it anyway.

Our opening announcement was the first publication of Eli Siegel’s Fifteen Questions, Is Beauty the Making One of Opposites?—one of the most important documents on art, of this century or any century. In 150 exhibitions it has been our criterion for selecting work—of well-known artists alongside those showing for the first time; photographs and prints together, an innovation, as was the all-silk screen show of 1965. And in every exhibition there were comments saying why we saw a work as beautiful.

In exhibitions, poetry readings, dramatic presentations, and hundreds of talks and publications, the Terrain Gallery has been a trailblazer in showing that art, as Aesthetic Realism describes, arises from respect for the world, and is the real opponent to the harm of the contempt so endemic in ordinary life. We have seen that this principle by Eli Siegel is true: “All beauty is a making one of opposites, and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves.” The Terrain Gallery is proud and grateful to say this, and to show it in more and more ways.

–DOROTHY KOPPELMAN

Terrain Gallery Committee: Dorothy Koppelman, Founding Director; Carrie Wilson, Marcia Rackow, Chaim Koppelman, Nancy Huntting, Jane Hall

Richard Anuszkiewicz  Roseanne Backstedt  Will Barnet
David Bernstein  Len Bernstein  Robert Blackburn  Al Blaustein
Rudy Burckhardt  Edmond Casarella  Jeremy Comins
Robert Conover  Michael Di Cerbo  Amy Dienes  Louis Dienes
Lois Dodd  Stephen A. Fredericks  Red Grooms  Mimi Gross  Perry Hall
Burton Hasen  Robert Henry  Su-Li Hung  Yvonne Jacquette
Lester Johnson  Alex Katz  Andre Kertesz  William King
Chaim Koppelman  Dorothy Koppelman  Tom Kranjac  Harold Krisel
Vincent Longo  Charles Magistro  Allan Michael  Robert Motherwell
Hans Namuth  Gloria Rabinowitz  Marcia Rackow  Ad Reinhardt
Clare Romano  Carol Rosen  John Ross  Frank Roth
Rolph Scarlett  Arnold Schmidt  Elfi Schuselka  Richard Sloat
George Stadnik  Steven Stankiewicz  Nancy Starrels
Selina Trieff  Richard Claude Ziemann  Larry Zox

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