

# Max Gimblett



## Recommended by George Waterman

One of New Zealand's most successful and internationally prominent living painters, Max Gimblett has been working in the U.S. since 1962. He has six books to his name and his art has been presented in more than 100 solo exhibitions over the years and is held in major public museum collections around the world. Often working on shaped panels or canvases—tondos, ovals, and his signature four-lobed quatrefoils—he marries Abstract Expressionism, Modernism and Spiritual Abstraction with mysticism and traditions of Asian calligraphy. When Catherine Fosnot and I consigned *Sunrise* for *Art for Your Collection*, she commented on the outstanding dimensionality in the piece. “De Kooning taught me how to do that,” Gimblett declared. “The first layer of paint that gets put on the paper is the primary and third dimension. As I build the fourth dimension, I play with the interaction of the third and fourth,” he explained. “At times, if I’m lucky, a fifth dimension appears.” The light blue in *Sunrise* is the established third dimension. The green and red at first seem to be directly applied onto the light blue, but then the green goes over the darker blue disk and the red goes behind it. In addition, the green color recedes, and the red comes forward as colors will do. And then, the metallic disks on the top come very forward with their brightness. Gimblett’s masterful interplay with overlapping and color provides a way for viewers to experience many dimensions of space and travel around, behind, and between the layers. In so doing, one is enveloped with the luscious, vibrant colors of Gimblett’s palette.

*George Waterman, Fall 2020*

## Bio

Max Gimblett is a painter, calligrapher, and Rinzai Zen monk. Born in Auckland, New Zealand in 1935, Gimblett trained at the San Francisco Art Institute in the 1960s and has since lived, studied, traveled, taught, and exhibited extensively across the globe. His work is included in major museum collections, including the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and the Auckland Art

Gallery Toi O Tamaki. Gimblett lives and works in New York and Auckland with the scholar, curator, writer and 2020 recipient of the prestigious Dan David Prize — Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett — to whom he has been married for 56 years. Gimblett leads Sumi ink workshops in many countries and was recently awarded the Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

## Artist Statement

I am a painter, calligrapher, and Rinzai Zen monk. My work is a harmonious postwar synthesis of abstract expressionism, modernism, spiritual abstraction, and Zen calligraphy.



*Max Gimblett 2015 (left), Full Fathom Five, Sumi Ink on Thai Fabric Backed Pulp Squares Handmade Paper 30"x22" and Pandemonium (right, 2016) Sumi Ink on Thai Garden 100% Kozo Plain Smooth Handmade Paper 30"x22."*



*Max Gimblett 2018, Sunrise. Pencil, Ink Size, Precious Metal Leaf on Arches Aquarelle 100% Cotton 400 lb. Watercolor paper, France, 22"x 30"*