

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PARRISH ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
ESTEBAN VICENTE: PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST
ON VIEW
FEBRUARY 6 – APRIL 10, 2011**

***More Than 20 Works by the Abstract
Expressionist Highlighting Discrete Passages
Of the Artist's Career***

***Plus, A Suite of Images of the Artist in His
Studio by Photographer Laurie Lambrecht
And
25 Works by Vicente's Friends and Students***



SOUTHAMPTON, NY 1/27/11 — *Esteban Vicente: Portrait of the Artist*, a gathering of the Abstract Expressionist's paintings and works on paper from the 1940s through the 1990s, will open February 6 at the Parrish Art Museum and remain on view through April 10, 2011. To provide an insightful look into the artist's life, work, and creative process, the exhibition will include, in addition to more than twenty works by Vicente, a suite of color photographs made in Vicente's studio by photographer Laurie Lambrecht and a selection of works on paper by Vicente's friends and former students. The exhibition is being organized by Alicia Longwell, Ph. D., the Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman Chief Curator, Art and Education. An opening reception for *Esteban Vicente: Portrait of the Artist* will be held at the Parrish on Saturday, February 5 at 6pm.

Esteban Vicente's death in 2001 at the age of 97 marked the passing of one of the last surviving members of the first generation of New York School painters. Vicente arrived in America in 1936, schooled in the old world academic tradition of his native Spain and fresh from a sojourn in the heady milieu of 1920s Paris. His openness to new influences and new friendships, including those with artists Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, and Mark Rothko, assured his crucial role in

the evolution of Abstract-Expressionist discourse in 1940s and 50s New York.

Vicente and his wife Harriet first came to the East End of Long Island in 1963 and a year later bought an old farmhouse on Montauk Highway in Bridgehampton, where they lived for nearly forty years. The barn in the rear of the property became his studio, and the surrounding garden, which Esteban and his wife cultivated over the years, provided a vital connection to the natural world.

Throughout his lengthy and distinguished career, Vicente remained attuned to the possibilities of experiment and invention, and it is this receptivity that assures his enduring importance. His legacy, as artist and as teacher, his vital role in the artistic community in New York and on the East End, and his lifelong pursuit of a singular vision are seen in the organization of this exhibition into three distinct segments. The exhibition will begin with a highly selective overview of works from Vicente's career, many of which have been drawn from the Parrish's own core collection, from an early oil on newsprint mounted on board (1949), to a large-scale, 40 x 50 inch, charcoal on paper from the late 1950's. Highlighting discrete passages in the artist's oeuvre, the overview will present Vicente classics exemplary of the strong fluidity and expressiveness of his approach, from the energy and light of his paintings in the 1960s, to the mastery of skill illustrated by his final works wherein a single brushstroke evokes a summative statement, such as with *Countryside* (1999), a lyrical study of the view from a farmhouse's back door into both the garden and studio beyond.

The next gallery will feature a remarkable suite of large-scale color photographs that chronicle a day in the life of the studio, taken in 1993 by Bridgehampton-based photographer Laurie Lambrecht. The dozen images document Vicente's studio practice and form a lyrical visual diary of his artistic practice.

Lastly, a selection of some twenty-five works on paper by Vicente's closest artist friends, gallery colleagues, and students, will complete this Parrish Art Museum portrait of the artist. The complimenting selection will include works by James Brooks, Chuck Close, Susan Crile, Robert De Niro, John Graham, Balcomb Greene, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Ibram Lassaw, Conrad Marca-Relli, Brice Marden, Mercedes Matter, Robert Motherwell, Alfonso Ossorio, Charlotte Park, Ray Parker, Philip Pavia, Jackson Pollock, Dorothea Rockburne, Mark Rothko, and Wilfrid Zogbaum among others.

All works included in the exhibition will be drawn from the holdings of the Parrish Art Museum, the Grey Art Gallery, New York University, and private

collections. Concurrently on view at the Grey Art Gallery, New York University, from January 11 through March 26, 2011, *Concrete Improvisations: Collages and Sculptures by Esteban Vicente* will serve as the first major American museum exhibition to pair collages and sculptures by Esteban Vicente.

An opening reception for *Esteban Vicente: Portrait of the Artist* will take place at the Parrish on Saturday, February 5. At 6 pm, Alicia Longwell will discuss Vicente's life and work with photographer Laurie Lambrecht, whose photographs at Vicente's studio are part of the exhibition, and artist Susan Crile, who studied with Vicente when he taught at New York University. A reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres will follow the talk. The talk and reception are free for Parrish members, \$10 for nonmembers.

The Museum's programs are made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties, and the property taxpayers from the Southampton School District and the Tuckahoe Common School District.

About the Parrish Art Museum

The Parrish Art Museum is an American art museum located in Southampton, New York. Founded in 1897, the museum celebrates the artistic legacy of Long Island's East End, one of America's most vital creative centers. Since the mid 1950s the Museum has grown from a small village art gallery into an important art museum with a collection of more than 2,600 works of art from the nineteenth century to the present. It includes such contemporary painters and sculptors as John Chamberlain, Chuck Close, Eric Fischl, April Gornik, Elizabeth Peyton, as well as such masters as Dan Flavin, Roy Lichtenstein, Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, and Willem de Kooning. The Parrish houses among of the world's most important collections of works by the preeminent American Impressionist William Merritt Chase and by the groundbreaking post-war American realist painter Fairfield Porter. A vital cultural resource serving a diverse audience, the Parrish organizes and presents changing exhibitions and offers a dynamic schedule of creative and engaging public programs including lectures, films, performances, concerts, and studio classes for all ages. On July 19, 2010, the Parrish broke ground on a new building designed by internationally acclaimed architects Herzog & de Meuron. The 34,500-square-foot facility will triple the Museum's current exhibition space and allow for the simultaneous presentation of loan exhibitions and installations drawn from the permanent collection.

***Image credit:** Esteban Vicente (American, born Spain, 1903–2001). *Countryside*, 1999. Oil on canvas. 52 x 42 inches. Parrish Art Museum, Promised Gift of the Harriet and Esteban Vicente Foundation.

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PARRISH ART MUSEUM SCHEDULE OF 2011 EXHIBITIONS

February 6–April 10, 2011

Esteban Vicente: Portrait of the Artist

April 17-June 12, 2011

Julião Sarmiento: Artists and Writers/House and Home

June 19 – August 14, 2011

Dorothea Rockburne: In My Mind's Eye

August 21 – Oct 9, 2011

Artists Choose Artists on the East End

Oct 16-Dec 4, 2011

American Portraits: Treasures from the Parrish Art Museum