

**VIVIAN SPRINGFORD** (1914 – 2003)

*Tanzania Series (VS3)*, 1972  
acrylic on canvas  
69 x 69 3/4 inches

*Martinique Series (VS4)*, 1973  
acrylic on canvas  
69 5/8 x 69 1/4 inches

Springford was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and educated at the Spence School in New York City and the Art Students League. Originally a portrait artist, she illustrated Albert Carr's 1938 book "Jugger-naut" with portraits of twenty political dictators from the Napoleonic era to the early twentieth century.

The art critic Harold Rosenberg helped Springford get her first show at Great Jones Gallery in 1960. The show generated much excitement and was filmed in the movie "Bowl of Cherries", in the film library of the Museum of Modern Art.

Springford shared studio space with the Asian American artist Walasse Ting for ten years, and helped him with translations of his poetry. Through her association with Ting, Springford developed close contacts with artists such as Pierre Alechinsky, Sam Francis and Karel Appel. Ting also introduced Springford to Asian art and philosophy, which had a strong influence on her work. Springford wrote "My painting is my own small plot of energy, in terms of color and movement, in the universal whole."

Springford was a "stain painter", applying paint to unprimed canvas through brush and pouring. Her early works of the late 1950s and early 1960s were more austere "Black Paintings" – later her palate changed with the embrace of a wide range of color that reminded one of tie-die art of the late 1960s.

Springford was a reclusive artist after the 1960s, only showing in a few group exhibitions. In the mid 1980s she began to suffer from macular degeneration that left her legally blind. She lived in a small New York midtown hotel, and was rediscovered through the efforts of a social worker who befriended her.

Gary Snyder/Project Estate is pleased to represent the Estate of Vivian Springford.