

## **Booksigning and informal gathering to celebrate the publication of "The Rothko Chapel Paintings: origin, structure, meaning by Sheldon Nodelman, UCSD professor of Visual Arts**

**September 18, 1997**

MEDIA ADVISORY

EVENT: BOOKSIGNING AND INFORMAL GATHERING to celebrate the publication of *The Rothko Chapel Paintings: Origins, Structure, Meaning* written by Sheldon Nodelman UCSD professor of Visual Arts

DATE/TIME: October 8, 1997

5-7 p.m.

LOCATION: The Stuart Collection Office

406 University Center

University of California, San Diego

BACKGROUND: Sheldon Nodelman received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University, and taught at Bryn Mawr, Princeton, and Yale before joining the UCSD faculty. He has been honored with Fulbright and Morse fellowships and was a Getty Scholar. He lectures at many of the most prominent institutions of higher learning in this country and abroad, and he has served as a consultant to several major museums. Professor Nodelman is unusual in the span of his research interests, which extend from the ancient classical world (he is an authority on Roman art, specifically Roman imperial portraiture), twentieth-century modernism, and art historical theory and method. In 1978, Nodelman published *Marden, Novros, Rothko: Painting in the Age of Actuality*, which can be seen as a preliminary treatment of some of the issues developed in the present book.

*The Rothko Chapel Paintings: Origins, Structure, Meaning* is the result of more than a decade of research. It includes previously-unpublished archival materials, interviews and architectural drawings, as well as Rothko's own sketches and preparatory works. Nodelman has created the first thorough account of the chapel's creation, including a fascinating narrative of the rivalrous collaboration between Rothko and the celebrated architect Philip Johnson, and of the complex evolution of the paintings themselves in the artist's studio.

In a concluding chapter, Nodelman examines the meaning of the chapel as a work of religious art, revealing its roots in traditional symbolism, the reinterpretation of symbolism in the artist's vision, and its role as a theater of personal transformation for the viewer.

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