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MIXOBLACK: ALBERTO BURRI

The Remba Gallery is pleased to present *Mixoblack* by Alberto Burri. The exhibition will take place at 462 North Robertson Boulevard in West Hollywood from February 1, 2003 to March 31, 2003. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, February 1, from 6-8 p.m. in conjunction with the West Hollywood Galleries.

Italian artist Alberto Burri was inventive, experimental and sensitive, and he produced extremely sensuous and elegant artworks. The artist was obsessed with industrial material such as burlap, plastic, plaster, iron, and cellotex. He explored the possibilities of the material and became engrossed with its characteristics, resulting in its use for periods of ten years or more. His work captures the eye with its alluring texture and remarkable gradation in tonality, even though white, red, brown and black dominated his palette.

All of these elements culminate beautifully in *Mixoblack*, a suite of ten Mixografia prints. Burri used acrylics and marble powder on cellotex to construct the master images for the series. The artist then chose shiny and matte black inks for the composition, further heightening the dimensionality of his painting as an object. The semi-circles, squares, trapezoids, and other shapes are simple and unimposing, but the subtle differentiation of textures and the variants of black seem to bring them to life.

While these pieces are visually stunning, they also represent a very private thought. While Burri associated black with an end, such as death or the termination of a day, he also saw it as the beginning of the regenerative cycle. The artist believed that within darkness it is possible to find hope and the promise of a new beginning, such as transcendence into another life or the guarantee of the breaking of dawn.

Alberto Burri possessed the exceptional ability to transform the mundane into something extraordinary. He discovered the beauty in chaos and converted absence into presence. His artwork is truthful and pure, and only through a direct encounter is one able to experience his artwork completely.

