

1/2/49

Letter to the Tiger's Eye on their reproducing a painting of Still's painted in 1945 and which they - or someone - entitled "The Grail".

"On page 29 of Issue #6 the Tiger's Eye carries a reproduction of a painting of mine. That Mrs. Parsons has permitted its reproduction without my permission, when expressly requested to refrain from such action at this time, can be understood in view of her enthusiasms. But that the picture should have to bear a title bestowed upon it by God knows what ironic ingenuity to emasculate every implication pertinent to the picture and all the principles from which I work is considerably more than my temper will take.

The paintings I show lack titles for reasons as profound as their implications to myself, and the relation I would establish between them and others with comparable sensibilities. To interpose any literary allusion is to establish a serious block to communication; to title this particular picture "The Grail" without noting that I was not the author of the title, borders on a presumptuous insult. I would appreciate a note to this effect in your next issue."

Years later I discovered Barney Newman had taken the liberty of titling it to contrast "his sublimity" gimmick and "purity".