Basic Detail Report



Munchkins I, II, & III

Date 1964

Primary MakerIdelle Weber

Medium

Acrylic on linen

Description

Munchkins I, II, & III is a seventeen-foot-long Pop era work. In Munchkins I, II, & III, Weber's edgy technique combined a Pop sensibility with the striking geometric lines of Minimalism and Hard-Edge painting. At the same time, the painting's intense flatness and lack of perspectival space reflect the techniques of commercial advertising. Her featureless figures echo the impenetrable anonymity of the city, which underwent a population boom in the post-war era. The painting exudes the lack of personal interaction that occurs in the daily "rat race," as business men in suits and ties ascend and descend the intercrossing escalators in the PanAm (now MetLife) building, completed in 1963. The title specifically references The Wizard of Oz and the underlying political and social metaphors that can be garnered from the film, in which hundreds of munchkins happily toil day-after-day for the authoritative wizard. Signed and dated lower left: "i weber / 1964."

Dimensions

72 x 214 in. (182.9 x 543.6 cm)