



Passion and Commitment: The Art of Luther Brady

OPENING OCTOBER 30, 2015

FreedmanArt
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FreedmanArt takes great pleasure in presenting "Passion and Commitment: The Art of Luther Brady," opening to the public October 30, 2015. Dr. Luther W. Brady, Jr. is a world renowned oncologist and honored arts patron.

Immeasurable generosity of spirit may best describe Luther Brady. Luther has actively collected for over 65 years, and while well known and well admired, he declines to be famous. This exhibition will hold many wonderful surprises. For the first time, approximately 40 works of art will leave the home of Luther Brady's most beautiful, early 19th-century townhouse in Washington Square, Philadelphia to be viewed together and enjoyed by all.

Among the "surprises" in the exhibition:



Richard Diebenkorn's 1957 landscape, "Untitled (tension pole)," presages the artist's signature Ocean Park series, dated 1967-1988. The painterly tension the pole gives to the picture plane in this landscape is evident, and similar to the characteristic divisions seen in the Ocean Park series, as exemplified by the "Untitled" (1980) watercolor and acrylic painting on paper also included in the exhibition.



Sam Francis's intimately scaled, 1959 "Untitled #27," with its early use of vibrant, "plastic emulsion paints," shows an affinity to the Color Field movement. This work was originally held in the personal collection of the influential gallerist Martha Jackson.



Helen Frankenthaler's "Untitled" of 1949 (the same year the artist, at 21, graduated from Bennington College), and "Beggar" (1979), present a historical dialogue. The rare Cubist interior, painted just three years before "Mountains and Sea," exemplifies the artist's keen understanding of modernist art during this formative period. In this context of historical progression, we see the accomplishment of what came later in the 1979 signature work "Beggar," which references Édouard Manet's "Ragpicker" (circa 1869).



Adolph Gottlieb's "Armature" (1954) is a striking painting from the very original, small series of works called Labyrinths, which encompassed a brief period from 1950-1955. In a 1954 Artnews review of a Kootz Gallery exhibition, Frank O'Hara writes: "[the] black grid on the surface... both imprisons the painting's depth of intention and protects the viewer from its natural ferocity."



The symbolism of the window was central to the visual language of Robert Motherwell from his earliest work dating from 1941 through the seminal, reductive Open series begun in 1967. Both "Window" (1948), and "Open No. 92: The Blue Wall" (1969) show how the early window motif envisioned the Open series.



The use of the ceramic medium in the intimately scaled, late David Smith sculpture of 1964, created the year before his death, is rare in the artist's body of work. Its geometric forms, however, relate to the angular compositions found in Smith's Cubi series, dated 1961-1965.

"Passion and Commitment" will include approximately 25 artists: Milton Avery, Walter Darby Bannard, Jake Berthot, Lee Bontecou, Jack Bush, Alexander Calder, Anthony Caro, Willem de Kooning, Richard Diebenkorn, Mark di Suvero, Friedel Dzubas, Sam Francis, Helen Frankenthaler, Glenn Goldberg, Adolph Gottlieb, Howard Hodgkin, Hans Hofmann, Knox Martin, Robert Motherwell, Jules Olitski, Larry Poons, Susan Roth, Sean Scully, David Smith, Frank Stella, and John Walker.

Coinciding with Luther's 90th birthday, FreedmanArt will celebrate this distinguished man and his lifelong dedication to a wide range of artists and their art. The exhibition will encompass a specially selected group of paintings, works on paper, and sculptures that have been given, or are promised gifts, to various public and teaching institutions for the benefit of future generations.

Additionally, we will compile a selection of "letters of appreciation," contributed by those in Luther's close circle of admiring friends, and reflections on Luther's career in collecting. "Appreciation and Reflection" will be produced by FreedmanArt on the occasion of this exhibition as a special keepsake for Luther and as a gift for all.

Dr. Luther W. Brady, Jr., internationally recognized radiation oncologist, has been a passionate collector and committed patron of art for over 65 years. He has devoted himself to the dissemination and preservation of the arts in various communities. He has served on multiple boards in the field of the arts and contributed philanthropic support to a wide variety of beneficiaries, including The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA, The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO, among many others. He is the namesake of the Luther W. Brady Art Gallery at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., where he was honored with the President's Medal this past spring.



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