



Ary Stillman, *Untitled*, 1962-1965
Oil on canvas, 38 x 30 inches

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Ary Stillman: Rediscovering an American Modernist

On view from November 6, 2008 – January 30, 2009

Opening Reception on Saturday, November 15 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday hours by appointment

The Art Resource Group is pleased to present “Ary Stillman: Rediscovering an American Modernist” (American 1891-1967), the first West Coast exhibition of Stillman’s work. The exhibition is a timely and revealing examination of a remarkable talent and will encompass each phase of Stillman’s stylistic development from his early representational painting in the 1930s to his later works of the mid-1960s. Included in the exhibition are thirty early Impressionist and representational works from the 1930s; important mid-century Abstract Expressionist paintings; watercolors and gouaches; and work from his stay in Cuernavaca, Mexico in the 1960s.

Stillman, an important figure who created artwork alongside some of the most famous names in Abstract Expressionism, attracted great critical acclaim during his lifetime, but his contribution to modern art has been largely overlooked during the past four decades.

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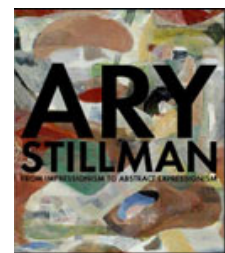
Curators, critics and historians are currently re-examining Stillman's role as an artist who, in fact, helped to define his generation. Stillman's immigrant experience, Jewish heritage, world travels and spirituality continuously defined his art, resulting in a fascinating body of work. Sandra Kraskin, curator of the Sidney Mishkin Gallery at Baruch College noted, "Ary Stillman's abstract paintings bring together the ordered structure of Cubism and the expressionistic, ritualistic themes that the American Abstract Expressionists inherited from Surrealism."

Born in White Russia (modern Belarus) in 1891, Stillman immigrated with his family to Sioux City, Iowa, in 1907. After studying at the Art Institute of Chicago and then at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League in New York, Stillman moved to Paris where he embraced the Impressionists, experimenting with light and atmosphere. In 1922, he established a studio in Montparnasse and studied with Cubist painter André Lhote. During his years in Paris, Stillman exhibited regularly in salons and museums and traveled extensively in Europe, Africa, and the Near East. In 1933 he returned to New York City, where he worked on the Federal Art Project, part of the WPA.

Like many artists, Stillman was greatly affected by WWII, which led to a dramatic shift in his style. No longer representational, his art embraced abstract forms. He explained, "For me the world of surface realities is no longer paintable. For nothing is as it formerly seemed..." He exhibited his first abstract composition at New York's Macbeth Gallery in 1946, a show comprised entirely of non-figurative work. The exhibition was critically acclaimed. Shortly thereafter, Stillman joined such artists as Mark Rothko as a member of the Eighth Street Club, the genesis of the New York School.

Stillman worked in New York until the mid-1950s when he moved to Cuernavaca, Mexico, but failing health forced him to return to the United States. He died in Houston, Texas in 1967.

This exhibition coincides with the publication of the first major monograph ever devoted to Stillman, entitled *Ary Stillman: From Impressionism to Abstract Expressionism*. The book contains contributions from prominent curators, critics and art historians, including a forward essay by Donald Kuspit, historian and professor of art history and philosophy at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. The publication will be the subject of several Southern California Book Fairs and lectures in November.



For additional information and/or visuals, please call (949) 640-1972 or e-mail the gallery at msmith@artresourcegroup.com.

For more information on Ary Stillman, please visit the Stillman-Lack Foundation at www.stillmanlack.org.

About Miriam Smith and the Art Resource Group

Established in 1987 by Miriam Smith, the Art Resource Group specializes in the sale of twentieth and twenty-first century American art, with a focus on American Modernist art and second-generation New York School artists. The gallery also handles Old Master, Impressionist and Abstract Expressionist paintings from private collections. Miriam Smith represents five estates of mid-twentieth century artists: Michael Corinne West, Ruth Wall, Jon Serl, Andy Wing and Ary Stillman.

The Art Resource Group offers a full range of client services, maintains an extensive inventory and has an experienced staff. The Art Resource Group also specializes in the resale or direct purchase of single pieces or entire collections of important modern and contemporary work. Services include fine art appraisals, professional art installation and conservation framing.

Formerly located on the Coast Highway in Corona del Mar, the gallery moved to its current location at 20351 Irvine Avenue in Newport Beach in August of 2007.

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