## **Recent painting U.S.A.: the figure**

# **Sponsored by the Junior Council of the Museum of Modern Art**

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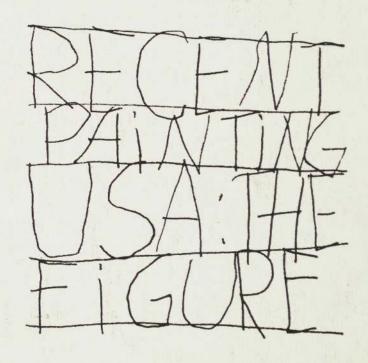
Exhibition URL

www.moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/3431

The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition history—from our founding in 1929 to the present—is available online. It includes exhibition catalogues, primary documents, installation views, and an index of participating artists.

**MoMA** 

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The Museum of Modern Art

May 23, 1962–September 4, 1962

Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts

November 1, 1962–November 29, 1962

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

January 30, 1963–February 27, 1963

Baltimore Museum of Art

March 15, 1963–April 26, 1963

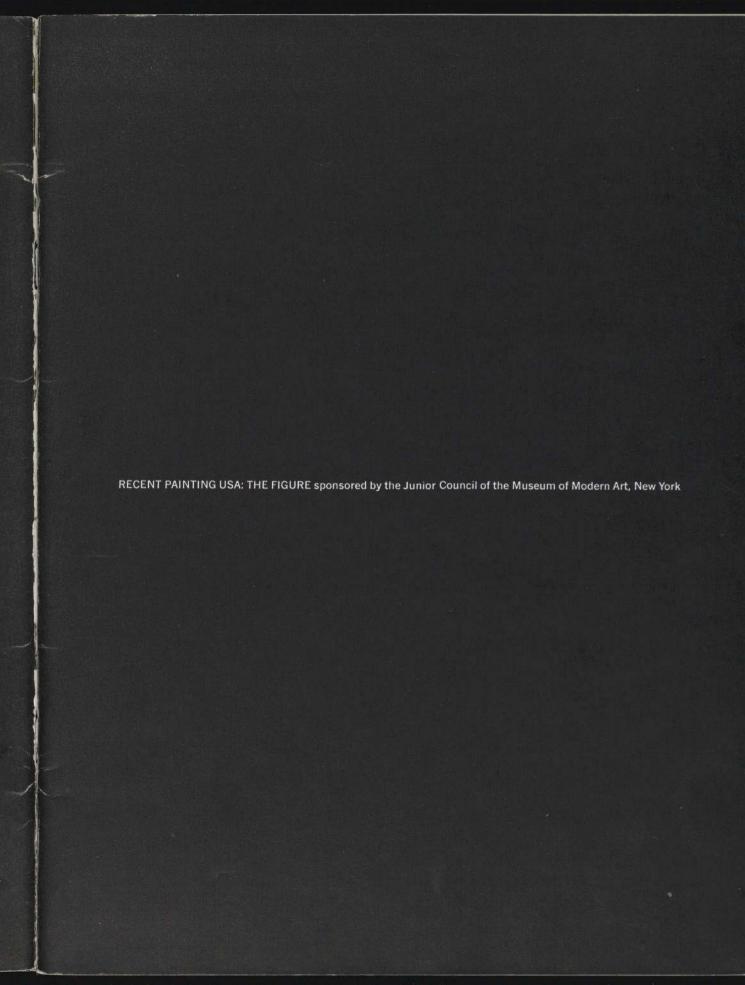
City Art Museum of St. Louis
May 13, 1963–June 10, 1963

San Francisco Museum of Art

August 18, 1963–September 15, 1963

Walker Art Center

October 1, 1963–November 12, 1963



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Replacement 66, 4:6

composed of a group of men and women whose interest in the arts is allied with the aims and purposes of the Museum. Its numerous activities are designed to supplement the regular Museum program. ■ RECENT PAINTING USA: THE FIGURE is the fourth in a series of open exhibitions organized by the Junior Council and devoted to one aspect of contemporary American art. It was preceded by YOUNG AMERICAN PRINT-MAKERS, 1953, RECENT DRAWINGS USA, 1956 and, in 1959, RECENT SCULPTURE USA. With the exception of RECENT DRAWINGS USA, all these exhibitions were circulated following the New York showing. The schedule for the current exhibition appears in the front of this catalogue. 

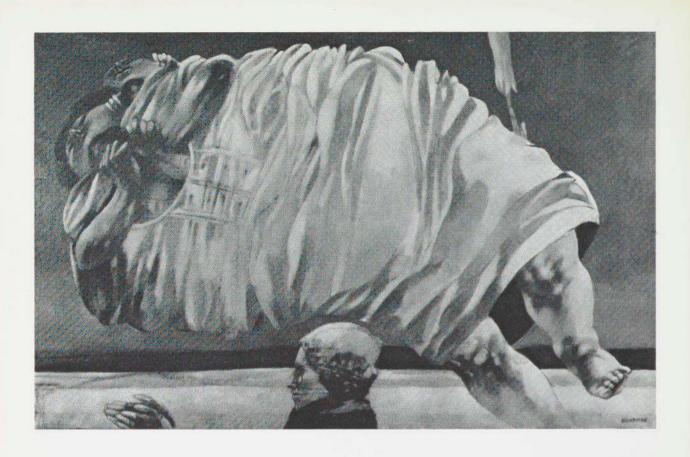
The purpose of RECENT PAINTING USA: THE FIGURE is to explore recent directions in the painting of the figure by American artists. The selection was determined by the entries received. Therefore, the exhibition was not designed to survey all contemporary figurative painting. 

The plan for this exhibition was initiated at a Museum meeting on May 5, 1960. Only work executed after January 1, 1958 was eligible for selection and entries had to be for sale. All artists first submitted photographs of their work; 9,495 photographs and slides were received from artists in forty-eight states. These were studied by Dorothy C. Miller, William S. Lieberman and Frank O'Hara of the Museum staff. The Council is deeply indebted to these curators for the many hours they devoted to this preliminary phase of the operation. One hundred and fifty of the 1.841 artists who submitted photographs were asked to send paintings for further consideration. The 335 works were assembled at a New York warehouse last fall and the present exhibition of seventy-four paintings by as many artists was selected by Alfred H. Barr, Jr., Director of the Museum Collections. 

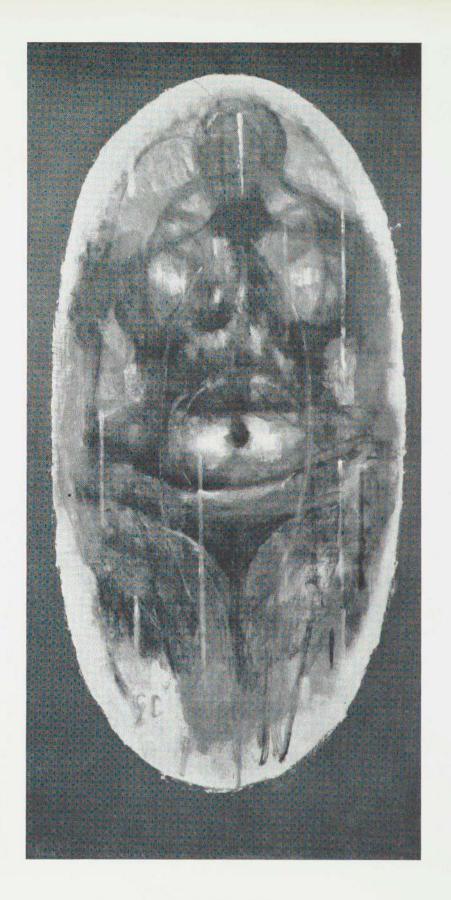
The Council is grateful to Mr. Barr, not only for his invaluable work in the final stage of selection, but also for contributing a provocative statement for this catalogue. The Council also thanks Miss Miller for her design of the installation of the exhibition. In all its projects the Council is dependent upon the cooperation of the members of the Museum staff and in the organization of this exhibition we have, as always, benefited by their generous assistance. ■ We wish to express our appreciation to Mrs. David S. Christy, Junior Council Chairman of the Exhibition, and to the members of her committee. Finally, special thanks are due to Dolores B. Lamanna, Executive Secretary of the Exhibition, for her devotion to the many details inherent in this enterprise. Walter Bareiss, Anne K. Jones; Co-Chairmen, Junior Council

and children-figures: figures in deep perspective, in flat silhouette; painted in patient detail or headlong bravura, with calculation or spontaneity, in monochrome or party-colored; figures candid as day; figures shredded, veiled, swathed, fragmented, emerging reluctantly from interpenetrating planes or tentacles of pigment; figures alone, in pairs, in groups, in crowds; figures naked, clothed, bizarrely accoutered; figures in landscapes, bedscapes, townscapes; figures staring at the painter, bathing in the benign sun. calling upon death in vain, hanged by the neck or heels; voluptuous figures, caressed or mocked; a nervous business man, a complacent woman, disquieting youths; figures frightened, haunted, ecstatic, lost in sleep; figures posed to make a composition; everyday figures, historical figures, legendary figures, Biblical figures; figures rapt in a witches' sabbath, bewildered by survival, photographed in someone else's dream, climbing toward a flowering tree. ■ All these figures have several things in common: first of all they exist in paintings; the paintings were done between 1958 and 1961 and were selected (not infallibly!) from some 9,500 submitted by living American artists. ■ Men have been painting their own image for many thousands of years but it is probable that never before, within one time and one country, has the human figure been painted with the prodigious variety of forms even this small exhibition suggests. 

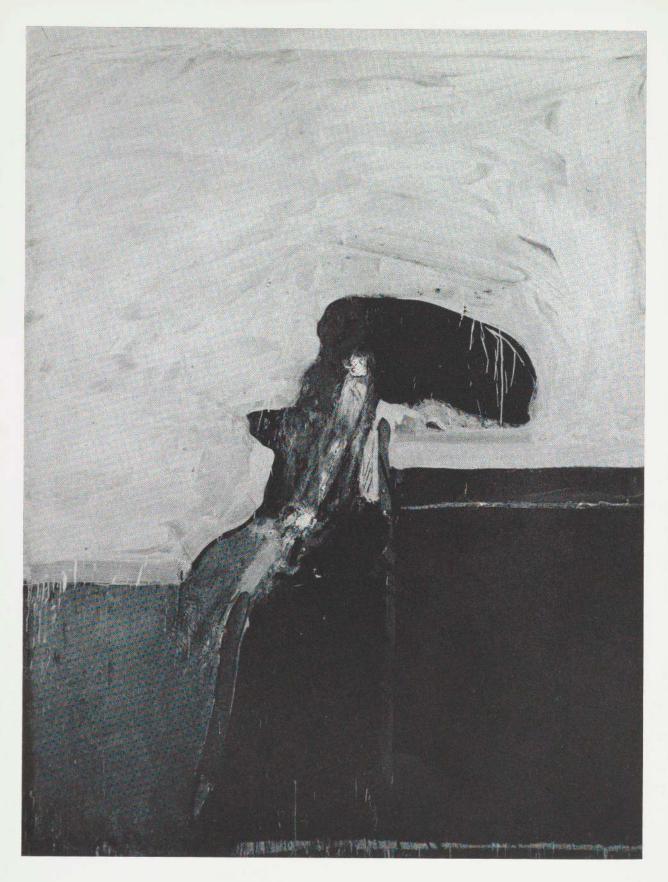
What is the meaning of this variety? The question is confounding. Compare figure painting in Egypt in the period between 1961 B. C. and 1958 B. C. with American figure painting now. The contrast approaches a polarity between uniformity and multiformity but it does not answer the question. Perhaps it leads to another: how rugged is the individualism? 
There is not much reassurance to the unadventurous in the fact that almost all of the paintings in the exhibition are traditional or at least precedented in their overt subject matter. that is, the situations and the states-of-mind explicitly suggested by the painted figures. The latent content is another problem, deeply involving not only personal symbolism but personal form or style. Form or style can disparage the importance of subject matter or confirm it. . These human figures were painted in a period (a glorious period in American art) when the painted surface often functioned in virtual and even dogmatic independence of any represented image. Some of these pictures suggest uncertainty as to whether a painting in the 1960s can or cannot, should or should not, live by paint alone. Others seem Alfred H. Barr, Jr. more confident. Ambiguous or decisive, more strength to them!





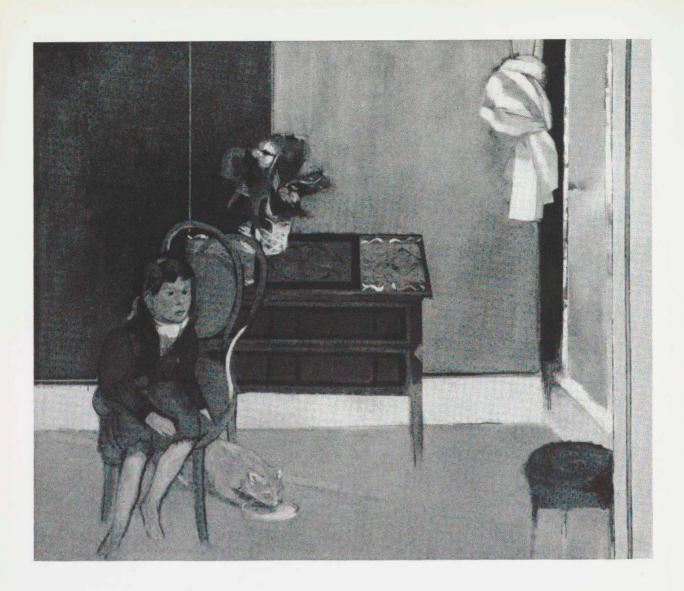


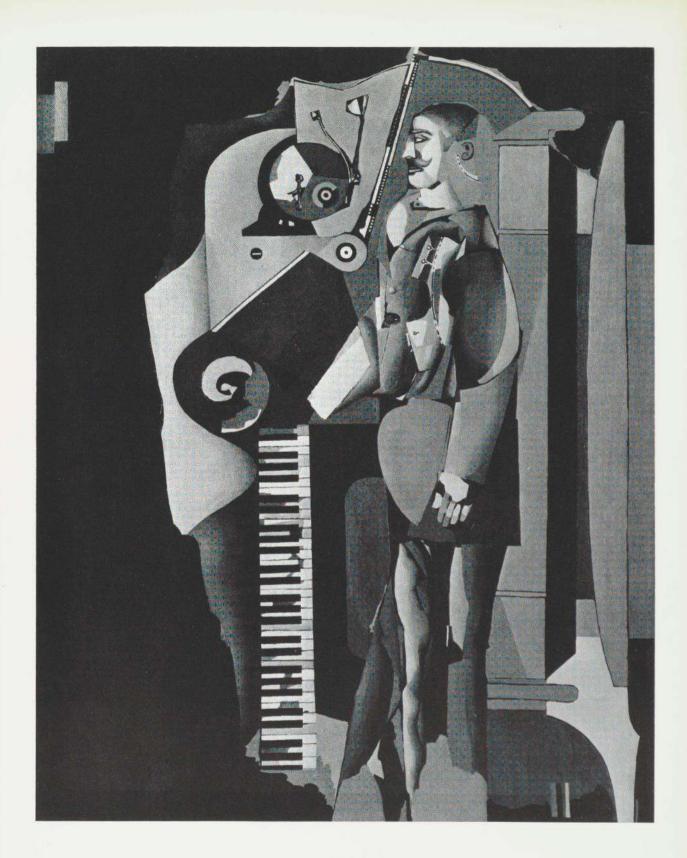
George COHEN: Oval Nude



Nathan OLIVEIRA: Seated Figure with Pink Background

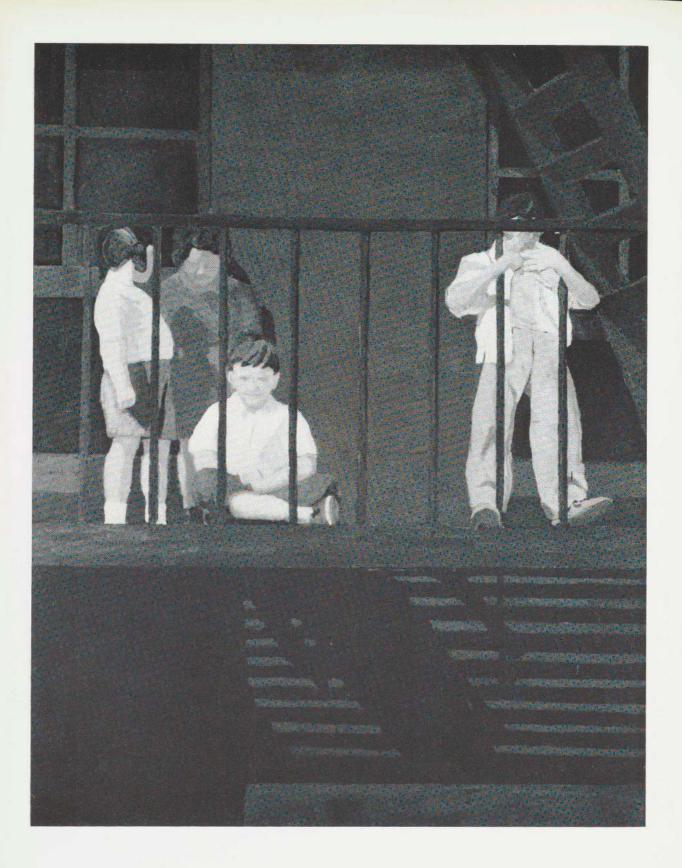








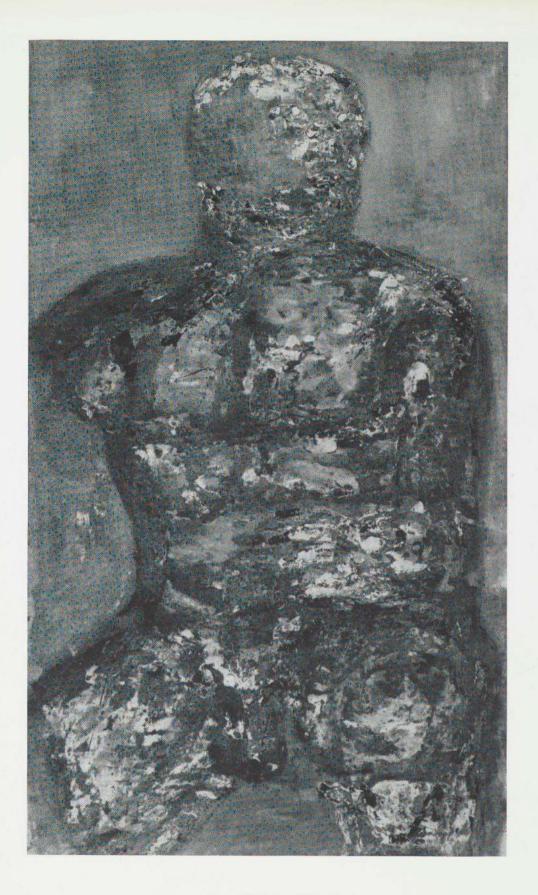




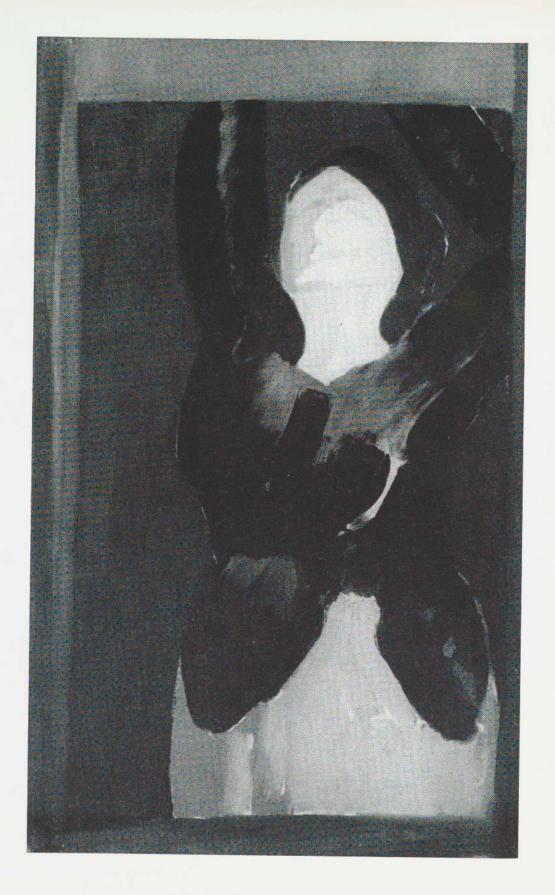


Harrison COVINGTON: Man in Landscape

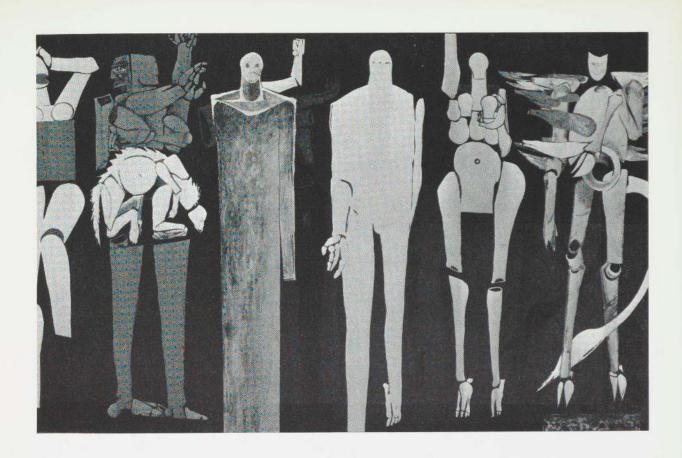




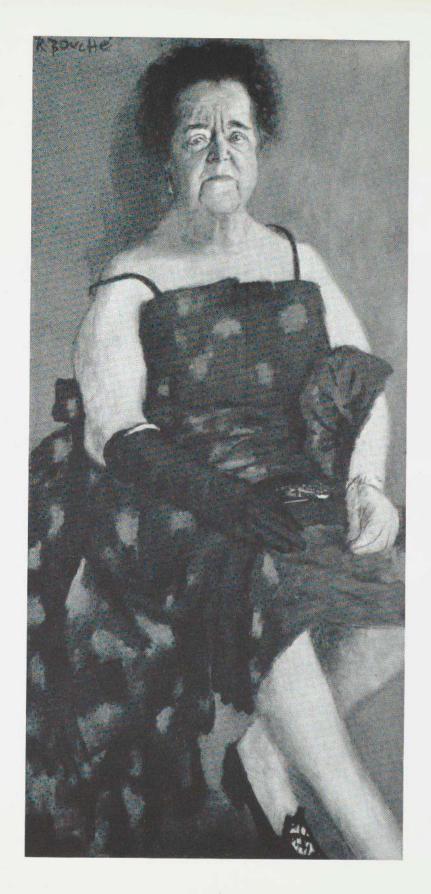
Leon GOLUB: Seated Boxer I



William CLUTZ: Woman Pulling Down a Window







René BOUCHÉ: Elsa Maxwell





Elmer BISCHOFF: Girl Reclining

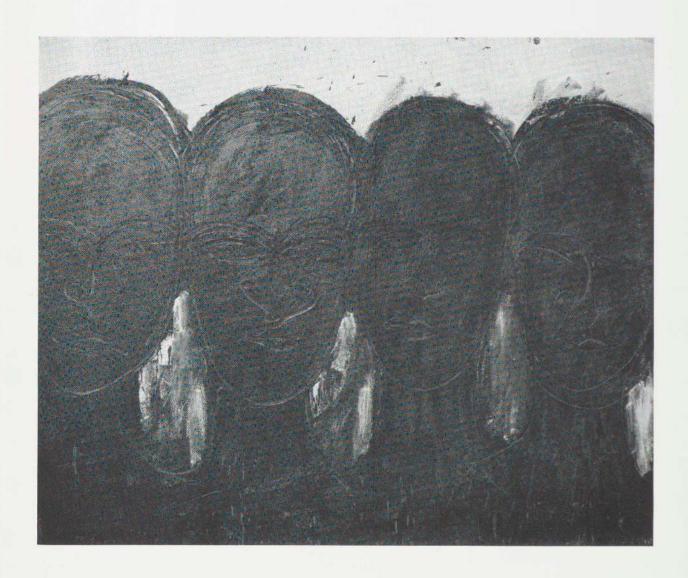




Larry RIVERS: Miss New Jersey I



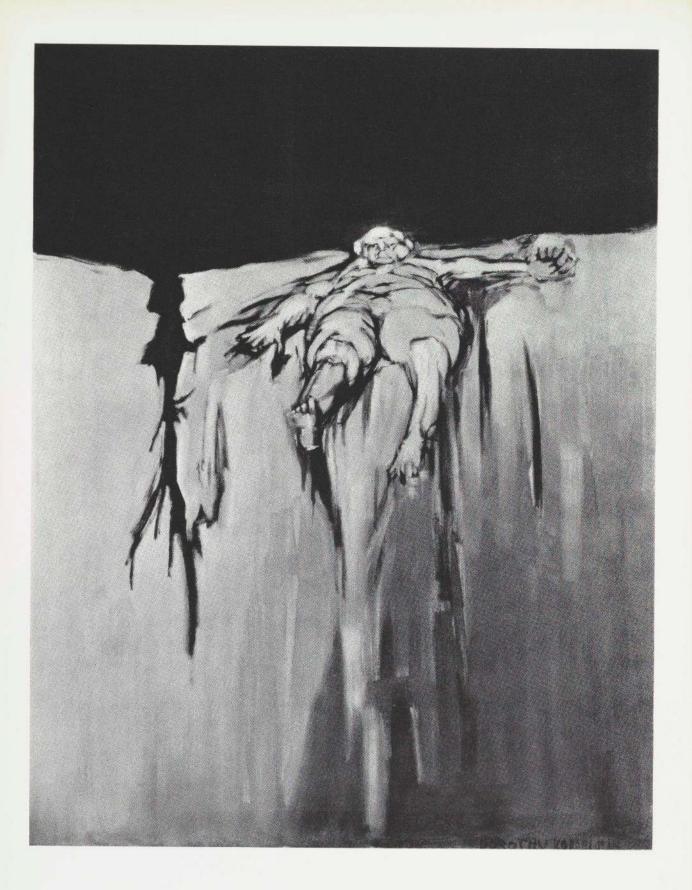
Richard HORNADAY: Bound Figure



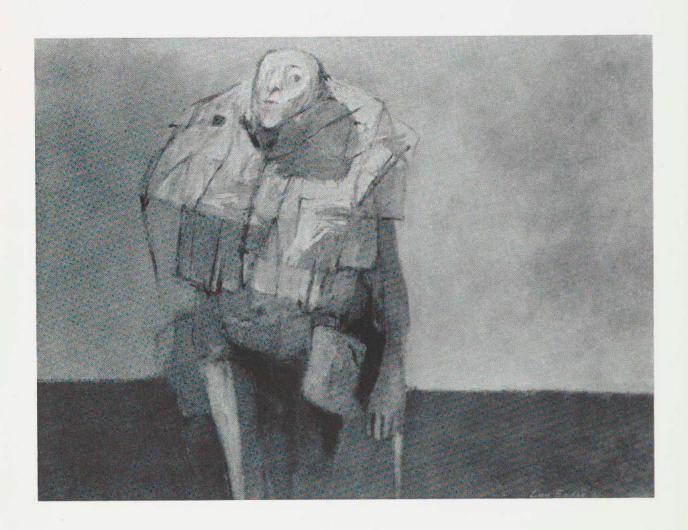
Lester JOHNSON: Four Men



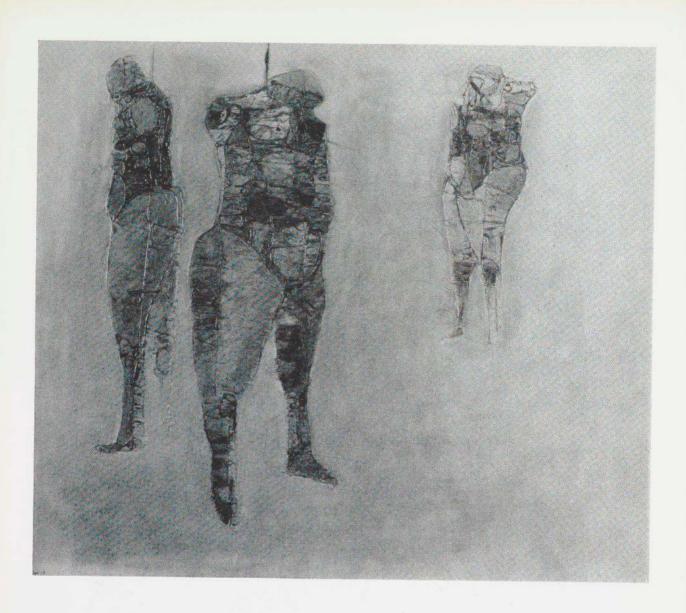


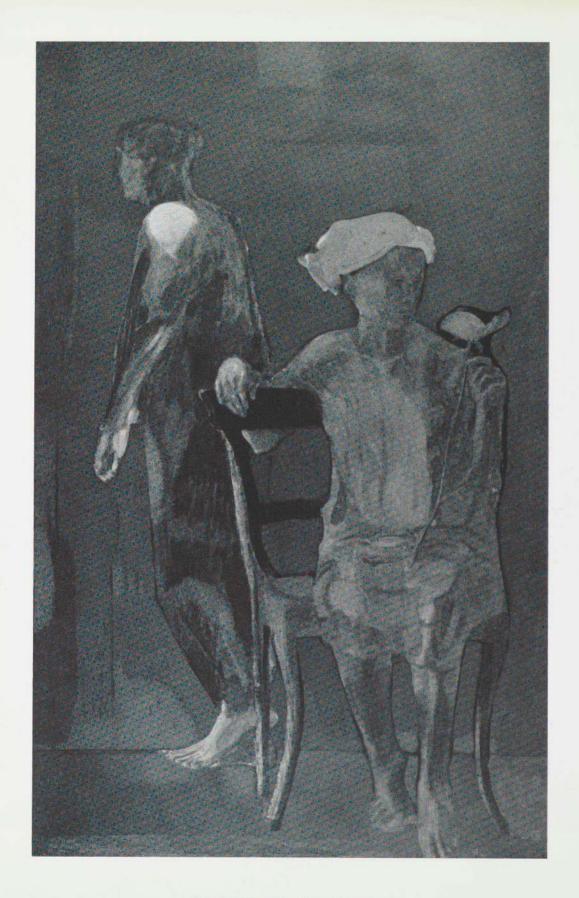


Dorothy KOPPELMAN: The Grip

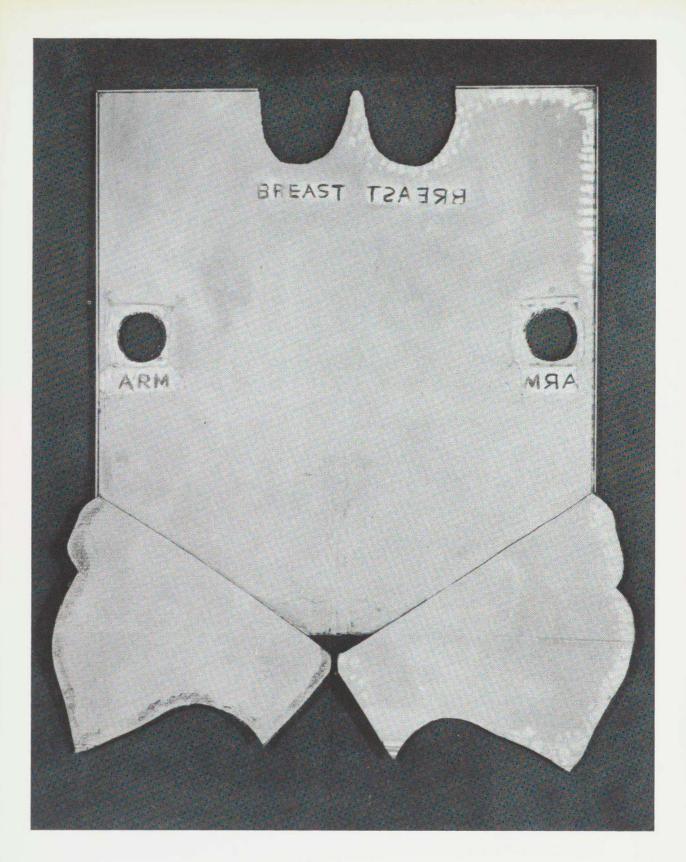


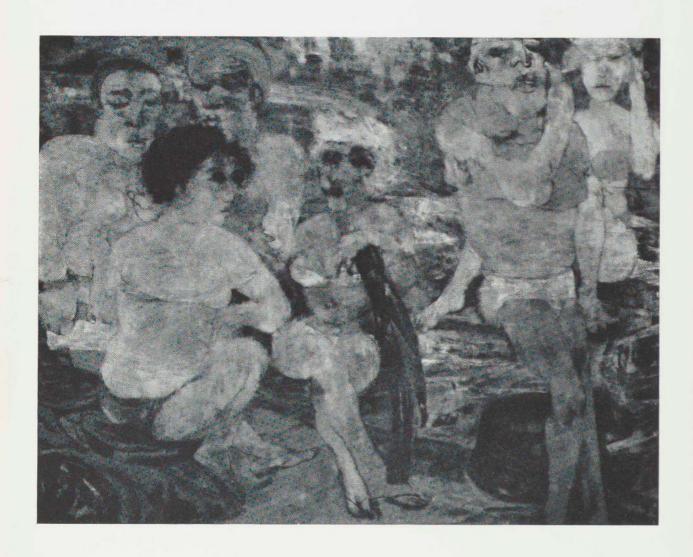
Luis EADES: Survivor





Cornelis RUHTENBERG: Potiphar's Wife





Sarai SHERMAN: Fête Champêtre





#### CATALOGUE

Dates enclosed in parentheses do not appear on the paintings.

In dimensions, height precedes width.

Where alternate spellings of words exist, the artist's preference has been used.

Works marked with an asterisk are illustrated.

AIKEN, William. Born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1934; lives in San Francisco, California. Spring Figure. 1960. Oil on canvas, 421/8 x 281/8".

\*ALTMAN, Harold. Born New York, New York, 1924; lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Figure and Foliage II. 1959. Oil on canvas, 30 x 36".

\*BEAUCHAMP, Robert. Born Denver, Colorado, 1923; lives in New York, New York. Untitled. (1960). Oil on canvas, 71 1/8 x 90 1/4".

\*BEERY, Gene B. Born Racine, Wisconsin, 1937; lives in New York, New York.

Strange Device, Still Untested. (1960). Oil on cutout Masonite and cardboard, 59% x 50%;

BERGER, Fred. Born Chicago, Illinois, 1923; lives in Chicago, Illinois. The Tribe. 1959. Oil on canvas,  $50\frac{1}{8} \times 71\frac{7}{8}$ ".

\*BISCHOFF, Elmer. Born Berkeley, California, 1916; lives in Berkeley, California. Girl Reclining. 1960. Oil on canvas, 67½ x 67½".

**BLAUSTEIN, AI.** Born New York, New York, 1924; lives in New York, New York. Dark Recess. (1960-61). Oil on canvas,  $34\frac{1}{8} \times 40^{\frac{1}{4}}$ ".

BORGE, Ralph W. Born Oakland, California, 1922; lives in Berkeley, California. Untitled #1. 1960. Tempera on composition board, 31% x 37%".

\*BOUCHÉ, René. Born Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1905; lives in New York, New York. Elsa Maxwell. (1958-59). Oil on canvas, 48 x 22 1/a".

BOYNTON, James. Born Fort Worth, Texas, 1928; lives in San Francisco, California. Scarecrow. 1959. Oil on canvas, 60 x  $58 \frac{1}{8}$ ".

BRODERSON, Robert M. Born West Haven, Connecticut, 1920; lives in Durham, North Carolina. New Myth-Mine Disaster. (1960). Oil on canvas,  $63\,\%$  x  $50\,\%$ ".

BRODY, Lilly. Born Budapest, Hungary, 1905; lives in New York, New York. Sitting Figure. 1961. Watercolor,  $13\% \times 11\%$ ".

BUSHNELL, Kenneth. Born Los Angeles, California, 1933; lives in Honolulu, Hawaii. Saturn. (1960). Oil on canvas, 22 x 22".

 $^{\circ}$ BUTTON, John. Born San Francisco, California, 1929; lives in New York, New York. Fire Escape. (1960). Oil on canvas, 101% x 79%."

\*CLUTZ, William. Born Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 1933; lives in New York, New York. Woman Pulling Down a Window. 1960. Oil on canvas, 50 x 30".

\*COHEN, George. Born Chicago, Illinois, 1919; lives in Evanston, Illinois. Oval Nude. (1959). Oil on canvas, 60 x 30".

 $^{\circ}$ COVINGTON, Harrison. Born Plant City, Florida, 1924; lives in Tampa, Florida. Man in Landscape. 1960. Acrylic and collage on canvas,  $47\frac{1}{4} \times 56\frac{1}{4}$ ".

DE KOONING, Elaine. Born New York, New York, 1920; lives in New York, New York. The Silent Ones. (1961). Oil on canvas,  $89\frac{1}{2}$  x 66".

DE NIRO, Robert. Born Syracuse, New York, 1922; lives in Paris, France. Woman in Red. 1961. Oil on canvas,  $70 \, \frac{1}{8} \times 54 \, \frac{1}{4}$ ".

DU BACK, Charles S. Born Fairfield. Connecticut, 1926; lives in Brooklyn, New York. Black and White. (1960). Oil on canvas,  $82\sqrt[3]{4} \times 66\sqrt[3]{2}$ ".

\*EADES, Luis. Born Madrid, Spain, 1923; lives in Boulder, Colorado. Survivor. 1961. Oil on canvas, 38 x 50".

FLOYD, Stanley. Born Leavenworth, Washington, 1933; lives in San Francisco, California. August. 1960. Oil on canvas,  $22\frac{3}{4} \times 21$ ".

GIOBBI, Edward. Born Waterbury, Connecticut, 1926; lives in Katonah, New York. Bier of the Hunter Gracchus. 1960. Oil on canvas, 60 x 601/4".

\*GOLUB, Leon. Born Chicago, Illinois, 1922; lives in Paris, France. Seated Boxer I. 1960. Lacquer on canvas, 81% x 47%".

\*GOLUBOV, Maurice. Born Russian Ukraine, 1905; lives in Brooklyn, New York. Nocturnal Figures. (1960). Oil on composition board,  $16\frac{1}{8}$  x  $47\frac{\pi}{6}$ .

\*GOODMAN, Sidney. Born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1936; lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Find a Way. (1961). Oil on canvas, 373/4 x 61".

GOODWIN, Charles Bennett. Born Plainfield, New Jersey, 1921; lived in Columbus, Ohio until his death in 1961. Manscape. 1960. Oil on canvas, 50 x 56".

\*GRIPPI, Salvatore. Born Buffalo, New York, 1921; lives in New York, New York. Figures. 1960. Oil on canvas, 501/8 x 60".

GUNTHER, George W. Born Mason City, Iowa, 1920; lives in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Dancer. (1959). Oil on canvas,  $44 \times 38$ ".

\*HANSEN, Robert. Born Osceola, Nebraska, 1924; lives in Los Angeles, California. Man-Men: Mirror. 1959. Lacquer on Masonite, 46 x 72".

**HENNESSEY, James.** Born Oak Park, Illinois, 1936; lives in Champaign, Illinois. Lady and Cat. (1960). Oil on canvas, 53 x 47".

HIRSCH, Joseph. Born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1910; lives in New York, New York. Coronation. (1959-60). Oil on canvas,  $74 \times 57 \%$ ".

\*HORNADAY, Richard. Born Joplin, Missouri, 1927; lives in Redding, California. Bound Figure. 1959. Oil on Masonite,  $21\% \times 9\%$ ".

JERGENS, Robert. Born Cleveland, Ohio, 1938; lives in Cleveland, Ohio. Opera Boxes. 1960. Oil on canvas,  $45\frac{9}{8} \times 50$ ".

\*JOHNSON, Lester. Born Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1919; lives in Columbus, Ohio. Four Men. (1961). Oil on canvas,  $55\frac{1}{8}$  x 68".

\*KAMIHIRA, Ben. Born Yakima, Washington, 1925; lives in Primos, Pennsylvania. Wedding Dress. (1960). Oil on canvas, 723/4 x 741/4".

\*KERN, Arthur. Born New Orleans, Louisiana, 1931; lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Abandoned Forms. 1960. Oil and epoxy resins on Masonite, 48 x 56".

KIRSCHENBAUM, Jules. Born New York, New York, 1930; lives in Meshoppen, Pennsylvania. Sleeping Figures. 1959. Tempera on Masonite,  $56\frac{3}{4} \times 36\frac{1}{6}$ ".

KOPPELMAN, Chaim. Born Brooklyn, New York, 1920; lives in New York, New York. Lost in White. (1961). Watercolor,  $15\sqrt[3]{4} \times 21$ " (sight).

\*KOPPELMAN, Dorothy. Born New York, New York, 1920; lives in New York, New York. The Grip. (1959). Oil on canvas,  $42\frac{1}{8} \times 32\frac{7}{8}$ ".

\*LANDAU, Jacob. Born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1917; lives in Roosevelt, New Jersey. Cinna the Poet. (1959). Watercolor,  $27\frac{1}{8} \times 40\frac{1}{4}$ ".

LANYON, Ellen. Born Chicago, Illinois, 1926; lives in Chicago, Illinois. Odalisk I. (1961). Oil and collage on canvas, 50 x 36".

**LEAKE, Eugene.** Born Jersey City, New Jersey, 1911; lives in Baltimore, Maryland. Buoy No. 4. (1960). Oil on canvas, 65% x 48%.

LIDOV, Arthur. Born Chicago, Illinois, 1917; lives in Poughquag, New York. The Net That Secretes Mathematics. (1959). Oil on Masonite,  $46\% \times 35\%$ .

LIFSON, Hugh A. Born New York, New York, 1937; lives in New York, New York, Holofernes' Dream. (1960). Oil on canvas,  $40 \times 30 \frac{1}{8}$ ".

\*LINDNER, Richard. Born Hamburg, Germany, 1901; lives in New York, New York. Musical Visit. (1961). Oil on canvas, 50 x 40".

MADDOX, Jerrold. Born Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1932; lives in Highland Park, Michigan. Two Figures (The Cots). (1959-60). Oil on canvas, 51% x 58".

\*MARSICANO, Nicholas. Born Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, 1914; lives in New York, New York. Daydream. (1961). Oil on canvas, 591/8 x 691/8".

McGARRELL, James. Born Indianapolis, Indiana, 1930; lives in Bloomington, Indiana. Auslesen. 1959. Oil on canvas,  $69\% \times 79\%$ ".

McLARTY, Jack. Born Seattle, Washington, 1919; lives in Portland, Oregon. Hunter at Noon. (1960). Oil on canvas, 50 x 40".

NAROTZKY, Norman. Born Brooklyn, New York, 1928; lives in Barcelona, Spain. Figura: Atropos. 1960. Polymer tempera and oil on canvas, 63 \% x 63 \% or.

NELSON, Robert A. Born Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1925; lives in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Soldiers. (1961). Oil on canvas, 581/4 x 481/4".

- OLIVEIRA, Nathan. Born Oakland, California, 1928; lives in Piedmont, California.
   Seated Figure with Pink Background. 1960. Oil on canvas, 82 x 62".
- \*PATO, Barbara. Born New York, New York, 1938; lives in New York, New York. Travellers. (1960). Oil on canvas,  $68\frac{1}{2}\times69\frac{1}{6}$ ".

PINKERTON, Clayton. Born San Francisco, California, 1931; lives in Richmond, California. Man Running from Death. (1959). Oil on canvas,  $73\frac{1}{2} \times 69\frac{9}{6}$ ".

POLLACK, Reginald. Born New York, New York, 1924; lives in New York, New York. The Music Student. 1960. Oil on canvas, 47 % x 55 % ".

RIVERS, Larry. Born New York, New York, 1923; lives in Southampton, New York.
 Miss New Jersey I. 1959. Oil on canvas, 62<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 44<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>".

ROSSMAN, Ruth Sharff. Born Brooklyn, New York, 1914; lives in Los Angeles, California. Women on Park Bench. (1961). Oil on Masonite, 35% x 48".

- RUHTENBERG, Cornelis. Born Riga, Latvia, 1923; lives in Meshoppen, Pennsylvania.
   Potiphar's Wife. (1959). Tempera on Masonite, 49 % x 30 ½".
- \*SCHNURR-COLFLESH, Elinore. Born Sandusky, Ohio, 1932; lives in New York, New York. The Four Women. (1960). Oil on canvas, 20 x 18".
- \*SCHWARTZ, Manfred. Born Lodz, Poland, 1909; lives in New York, New York. The Ring. (1958-59). Oil on canvas, 36 x 36".
- \*SEIDENBERG, Jean. Born New York, New York, 1930; Ilves in New Orleans, Louisiana. Eugenie. 1961. Oil on canvas, 68 x 801/4".
- \*SHERMAN, Sarai. Born Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1922; lives in New York, New York. Fête Champêtre. (1960). Oil on canvas, 601/4 x 781/8".
- \*SOLBERT, Ronni. Born Washington, D.C., 1925; lives in New York, New York. Jack and Idee, 1961. Oil on canvas, 65 x 55 1/4".

STUSSY, Jan. Born Benton County, Missouri, 1921; lives In Los Angeles, California. Black Figure. (1960). Casein on composition board, 39 \(^3\)/ x 29 \(^3\)/".

TREIMAN, Joyce. Born Evanston, Illinois, 1922; lives in Pacific Palisades, California. Poet with Jumping Dog. (1961). Oil on canvas,  $38\frac{1}{8} \times 38\frac{3}{8}$ ".

VAN DYK, James. Born Los Angeles, California, 1930; lives in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. Red Wall. 1961. Lacquer and collage on Masonite, 72 x 47 % ".

WESSELMANN, Tom. Born Cincinnati, Ohio, 1931; lives in New York, New York.

The Great American Nude II. 1961. Gesso, enamel, oil and collage on plywood, 59% x 47%".

WHEAT, John. Born New York, New York, 1920; lives in Mexico. Death in Milan. (1960). Oil tempera on canvas, 36 x 50 1/8".

WILLIAMS, Hiram. Born Indianapolis, Indiana, 1917; lives in Gainesville, Florida. Stroboscopic Searcher II. 1960. Oil on canvas, 96 x 72".

WINES, James. Born Oak Park, Illinois, 1932; lives in Rome, Italy. Antinea I. 1960. Gouache and collage,  $25\frac{1}{4} \times 18\frac{3}{8}$ " (sight).

\*WONNER, Paul. Born Tucson, Arizona, 1920; lives in San Francisco, California. Bather. (1959). Oil on canvas, 60 x 57".

YEKTAI, Manoucher. Born Tehran, Iran, 1922; lives in Paris, France. Concierge. 1960. Oil on canvas,  $74\frac{1}{2}\times70\frac{7}{6}$ ".

ZAJAC, Jack. Born Youngstown, Ohio, 1929; lives in Claremont, California. Pilgrimage to a Blooming Tree I. (1961). Oil on canvas,  $37\% \times 46\%$ .

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