

H E M P H I L L

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BENJAMIN ABRAMOWITZ, *Untitled*, c. 1955, mixed media on paper, 17" x 14"

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BENJAMIN ABRAMOWITZ, *Works on Paper 1955-1965*, June 20 - August 19, 2006

Washington, DC -- *Works on Paper 1955-1965*, an exhibition of abstract drawings and paintings on paper by Benjamin Abramowitz, opens at Hemphill Fine Arts on Tuesday, June 20 with a public reception on Wednesday, June 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The exhibition remains on view until Saturday, August 19, 2006.

Painted from 1955 to 1965, these works on paper evidence the indelible legacy of Abstract Expressionism. The collection of sixteen works on paper offers bold, saturated color and expressive movement of line and brush strokes. Inspired by the improvisational style of hard-bop and free jazz, the artworks are graphically powerful and confident.

Now almost 90, Benjamin Abramowitz is one of the few surviving major Washington, DC artists of the past century. This exhibition reintroduces the artist described by late curator Walter Hopps as "an historic figure in American Art." Benjamin Abramowitz had his first solo show at the Brooklyn Museum in 1933 at the age of 16. After working with the Works Progress Administration in New York, he relocated to Washington in 1941 and quickly attracted critical and curatorial notice as a major talent.

By the 1950s, Abramowitz had become an established painter and teacher throughout the Washington metropolitan area. His paintings were frequently chosen for exhibitions in museums and galleries throughout the region, including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, The Phillips Collection, The Baltimore Museum of Art and Howard University. The Ford Foundation selected him as an artist-in-residence. He won numerous prizes in regional art competitions. Duncan Phillips was among the collectors who acquired his work. During a twenty-year period, The Phillips Collection, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and The Baltimore Museum of Art selected his work for fifteen exhibitions; both The Baltimore Museum of Art and the Corcoran Gallery of Art featured his work in solo exhibitions, in 1951 and 1963 respectively.

During a career spanning seven decades, Abramowitz produced an estimated 4,000 artworks including drawings and watercolors on paper, paintings and sculptures, and numerous sketchbooks.

GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and by appointment.

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