

3/12/64

News
For Immediate Release

JACK TWORKOV EXHIBITION TO OPEN AT THE
WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

The first large retrospective exhibition of paintings by Jack Tworkov, one of the leading figures in contemporary abstract art, will open to the public on Wednesday, March 25, at the Whitney Museum of American Art. The show will continue through May 3.

A total of 60 paintings and 25 drawings and collages give comprehensive coverage to Jack Tworkov's production since the mid-1940's. The exhibition was selected by Edward Bryant, Associate Curator of the Whitney Museum, who has written a fully illustrated and documented monograph on the artist to be published by Frederick A. Praeger, Inc., on the occasion of the exhibition.

Jack Tworkov, who is Chairman of the Yale University School of Art and Architecture, has been closely associated with abstract expressionism since 1946. "For him, abstract expressionism is not a style but an attitude toward painting that lets the artist face all contingencies," writes Mr. Bryant in the Tworkov monograph. "At the same time that some critics are preaching the funeral of the movement, Tworkov's recent work clearly demonstrates that, as an approach to painting, abstract expressionism is still very much alive."

Jack Tworkov was born in Biala, Poland, in 1900 and immigrated to New York with his parents in 1913. His long and varied involvement in painting dates back to his teens when a teacher of mechanical drawing at Stuyvesant High School interested him in sketching after school hours. During the 1920's he studied at Columbia University, the National Academy of Design (with Ivan G. Olinsky and Charles Hawthorne) and The Art Students League (with Guy Pène du Bois and Boardman Robinson). His summers were spent in Provincetown, Mass., where he was closely associated with Karl Knaths. At that time he was also actively interested in the theater. He earned his living by working with a marionette company; from 1928-30 he was associated with John Dos Passos in the Playwrights' Theater. In 1935 he began a long association with Willem de Kooning that was to last until about 1953. His first one-man show was at the A.C.A. Gallery in 1940. During World War II he worked as a tool designer and did not paint.

Tworkov resumed painting in 1945 and became engaged in

(more)

the vital ideas of the post-war avant-garde. He was one of the original members of "the club," the artists forum to formulate the new esthetics of abstract expressionism.

From 1947 to 1954 Tworkov exhibited at the Charles Egan Gallery, New York. Later he exhibited at the Stable Gallery and the Leo Castelli Gallery, his present dealer. He has had 18 one-man shows, including exhibitions at The Baltimore Museum of Art (1948), Walker Art Center (1957), and Yale University Art Gallery (1963).

His work is represented in the permanent collections of 16 public collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Cleveland Museum, The Baltimore Museum, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford and others.

Tworkov has shown in many important group exhibitions both here and abroad. These include "Documenta II," Kassel, Germany (1959); "The New American Painting," The Museum of Modern Art (1959); "American Abstract Expressionists and Imagists," Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1961); the Whitney Museum's Annuals and the Carnegie Institute's Pittsburgh International exhibitions. In 1963 he was awarded first prize in the Biennial Exhibition of American Painting at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Tworkov has taught at many schools. From 1948 to 1955 he was on the faculty of Queens College in New York and from 1955 to 1958 he taught at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. He has held special term appointments at American University, Washington, D.C.; Black Mountain College in North Carolina; the Universities of Indiana, Mississippi, Minnesota, Illinois. In 1963 he was appointed Chairman of the Art Department of the School of Art and Architecture at Yale University. He also holds there the faculty rank of Leffingwell Professor of Painting, one of the country's first endowed chairs in painting.

After the Whitney Museum showing the Jack Tworkov exhibition will be shown at The Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, D.C.; The Pasadena Art Museum; San Francisco Museum of Art; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; The Poses Institute of Fine Arts, Brandeis University.

The Whitney Museum is open daily from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Admission is free.

Gallery talks by Mrs. Irma Jaffe each Sat. and Sun., 2:30 p.m.

PRESS DAY: Tuesday, March 24, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Through April 5	Gaston Lachaise Retrospective
April 14 - April 29	Recent Acquisitions
May 8 - June 16	"The Friends Collect: Recent Acquisitions by Members of the Friends of the Whitney Museum of American Art."
June 24 - Sept. 23	"Between the Fairs: 25 Years of American Art, 1939-1964."