

For Immediate Release

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Meredith Ward Fine Art

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Yale University Art Gallery Acquires Flora Crockett Painting



Flora Crockett (1892-1979) *South American Dancers*, 1946, Oil on canvas board, 22 x 30 in

Meredith Ward Fine Art is pleased to announce that Flora Crockett's *South American Dancers* has been acquired by Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, and is currently on view in the Ted and Mary Jo Shen Gallery. *South American Dancers* has been installed by Keely Orgeman, Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, alongside works by American modernists Stuart Davis, George L. K. Morris, Charles Sheeler, Joseph Stella, and Alexander Calder.

Flora Crockett (1892-1979) is a newly discovered American abstractionist whose career spanned the middle decades of the 20th century. During the 1920s and 1930s, Crockett spent more than ten years in Paris exhibiting her work at various galleries and studying at Fernand Léger's Académie Moderne, where she eventually became the director. She returned to New York in the late 1930s, exhibited at the Bonestell Gallery and at the Riverside Museum with the Bombshell Artists

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Group. Crockett also worked for the WPA as a teacher and participant in the mural program. After a decade of relative artistic inactivity, she returned to painting in the 1960s for the most productive period of her career.

The Yale acquisition places Crockett's work in the context of her more well-known male contemporaries. In the current installation, Crockett's *South American Dancers* engages with its similarly musically inclined neighbor, Davis's *Switchski's Syntax* (1961). To the left is Morris's *Invasion Barge* (1943), an interpretation of a military operation and a fitting juxtaposition, since Crockett worked as an inspector of artillery parts during World War II.

Roberta Smith wrote in her *New York Times* review of Crockett's work that it could "hold its own in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art or the Museum of Modern Art and in the history of American abstract painting." In addition to Yale University Art Gallery, Crockett's paintings have been placed in important private collections around the country and have been on view at the Colby College Art Museum in Waterville, Maine, and the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville, Florida.



Installation view of Flora Crockett's *South American Dancers* hung in the Ted and Mary Jo Shen Gallery alongside works by Stuart Davis, George L. K. Morris, Charles Sheeler, Gerald Murphy, Joseph Stella, and Alexander Calder at the Yale University Art Gallery.

About the Gallery

Meredith Ward Fine Art opened in 2004 specializing in American art from the 19th century to the present. The gallery is the exclusive representative of the estates of Flora Crockett, Larry Day, Joseph Fiore, and Steve Wheeler. Meredith Ward Fine Art is located at 44 East 74th Street, Suite G, in New York City and is open to the public Monday through Friday, 10am to 5:30pm. For more information or images, contact Meghan Schwab at 212-744-7306 or info@meredithwardfineart.com

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