

MEREDITH WARD FINE ART

For Immediate Release

November 1, 2022

Meredith Ward Fine Art

Contact: Meredith Ward

Debra Wieder

Meghan Schwab

212-744-7306

info@meredithwardfineart.com

**MULTIPLE MUSEUMS ACQUIRE
FLORA CROCKETT PAINTINGS**



Untitled, 1941, oil on canvas board, 30 x 22 in. Collection of the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Ky.

Meredith Ward Fine Art is pleased to announce that Flora Crockett's painting *Untitled* (1941) has been acquired by The Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky. This is the third acquisition of Crockett's work by a museum within the past few years, and follows the acquisition of *Untitled* (c. 1940-50s) by Colby College Art Museum, Waterville, Maine. Previously, Crockett's *South American Dancers* (1946) joined the permanent collection of Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut. *South American Dancers* is currently on view at Yale alongside works by American modernists Stuart Davis, George L. K. Morris, Charles Sheeler, Joseph Stella, and Alexander Calder.

These acquisitions recognize Crockett as an important 20th century abstractionist and underscore the praise her work has received by critics. Roberta Smith wrote in *The New York Times* in 2015 that Crockett's body of work 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." Smith continued, "Ms. Crockett's paintings are elegant, knowing and at ease, made by a practiced hand. They indicate a familiarity with 20th century abstraction...but the sharp colors and dynamic compositions feel hip fresh and very much her own." John Yau wrote in *Hyperallergic* in 2017, "[Crockett's] paintings are to be looked at, savored, and reflected upon...history passed her by, but now we have a chance to rewrite that history, and to further open it up, and include her."

(more)



Untitled, c. 1940s-50s, oil on canvas board, 18 x 24 in. Collection of Colby College Art Museum, Waterville, Me.

MEREDITH WARD FINE ART

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 Académie Moderne with Fernand Léger and Amédée Ozenfant. There she joined an international student body with other American modernists that included Florence Henri, Blanche Lazzell, and George L.K. Morris. In 1929, Crockett became the director of Académie Moderne, a position that she held for five years. With war threatening in Europe, she returned to the United States in the 1937. Settling in New York, she exhibited at the Bonestell Gallery and at the Riverside Museum with the Bombshell Artists Group. Crockett also worked for the WPA as a teacher and participant in the mural program.



South American Dancers, 1946, oil on canvas board, 22 x 30 in. Collection of Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Ct.

Meredith Ward Fine Art, the exclusive representative of Crockett's estate, is holding the third exhibition of her work this fall. A new group of works that have never before been exhibited will be on view at the gallery from October 6th to November 18th, and at The Art

Show from November 2nd to 6th.



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

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, Joseph Fiore, and Steve Wheeler. Meredith Ward Fine Art is located at 44 East 74th Street, Suite G, in New York City and is currently open Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm. For more information or images, contact Meghan Schwab at 212-744-7306 or info@meredithwardfineart.com.

###

44 EAST 74TH STREET SUITE G NEW YORK NY 10021

TEL 212 744 7306 FAX 212 744 7308

INFO@MEREDITHWARDFINEART.COM