13. ***(Figure with Raised Arms),*** 1946

HOWARD DAUM

MODERNIST DRAWINGS AND PRINTS

MAY 16 THROUGH JUNE 23, 2007

SUSAN TELLER GALLERY

568 BROADWAY • NEW ROOM 502A • NEW YORK, NY 10012 • 212 941-7335

TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, 11 AM TO 6 PM • CLOSED MAY 26 AND JUNE 5, 6 AND 7

Howard Daum (1918-1988)

Howard Daum was born in Poland. The family lived in Lodz until Daum was 14 when he and his mother emigrated. They went to Montreal, Canada, where he studied with the painter Alexander Bercovitch from 1934 to 1937. In 1938 Daum and his mother came to New York and settled in the Bronx.

Upon graduation from high school in 1940 Daum attended the Art Students League on a scholarship. He worked with Will Barnet, Cameron Booth, Morris Kantor, Harry Sternberg, and Vaclav Vytlacil (an important mentor). Vytlacil had studied with the modernist painter Hans Hofmann in Munich in 1921, and was a founder of the American Abstract Artists group in 1936.

In 1943 and '44, Daum served in the United States Army in Mississippi, and then returned to New York. In 1944 and '45 he studied with Hofmann at his Greenwich Village school. Daum's work from this period became more abstract with clear, direct strokes of bright color. In the extremely shallow space objects such as figures and easels overlapped one another.

Among the artists who were important to Daum as colleagues, Robert Barrell, Peter Busa, and Steve Wheeler, had also studied with Hofmann. In 1940 they made a break with the gestural style of abstraction associated with Hofmann and started to work in a manner inspired by northwest Native American art. This work was of huge interest at the time and was the subject of a 1941 show, Indian Art of the United States, at the Museum of Modern Art. This new style, known as Indian Space, generally incorporated elements of nearly abstract flat space with an all-over pattern and complex figure/ground relationships, undulating lines with interlocking shapes, and elaborately decorated motifs. Daum soon joined the circle and it was he who coined the term Indian Space; Daum also brought in Gertrude Barrer and Oscar Collier. Together they showed in "Semeiology or 8 and a Totem Pole" at the Gallery Neuf in 1946. Also in that year Daum's woodcut *Cat and Bird* was used on the cover of the first issue of *Iconograph* magazine. *

In 1945 Daum took a room, Studio K, on the second floor of the building at 30 East 14th Street just west of Union Square. He lived and worked there the rest of his life, adding a room, Studio O, on the fifth floor, in the late 1960s. In addition to his close friends Carl Ashby and Helen de Mott, other artists with studios in the building were Charles Keller, Leon Kotkofsky, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Edward Laning, Kenneth Hayes Miller, and Harry Sternberg.

In the mid-1940s Daum studied printmaking at Stanley William Hayter's Atelier 17. Founded in Paris in 1927, the Atelier moved to New York City because of World War II. It opened in late 1940 under the auspices of the New School, and created a meeting place where American and European refugee artists exchanged information on modernist movements. Most of the prints by Daum are from this period. His relief prints show an interest in the abstraction of Indian Space, while the intaglios reflect the influence of Pablo Picasso and a return to the figure. Daum embraced many aspects of modernism and revisited these early interests throughout his career.

Daum was the recipient of a Longview Foundation Award in 1963. Also in the 1960s, at the instigation of his friend Paul Resika, Daum taught in the MFA program at Parsons School of Design (now Parsons, the New School for Design). In the 1960s and '70s he worked painting scenery at CBS-TV and the Metropolitan Opera.

20. ***(Studio with Black Cat),*** about 1954

The first one-person show of work by Daum was held at the Ashby Gallery, NY, in 1946. Exhibitions followed at Gallery 35, 1950, Urban Gallery, 1954, Artists Gallery, 1952 and 1956, the Bianchini Gallery, 1964, Green Mountain Gallery, 1971, the Ashby Gallery, 1981, Gary Snyder Fine Art, 1991, and David Findlay Jr. Fine Art, 2004 and 2006. Work by Daum has been featured in numerous exhibitions including Indian Space Painting: Native American Sources of American Abstract Art, Baruch College Art Gallery, NY, 1991, Artists of 30 East 14th Street, Susan Teller Gallery, NY, 1992, and Indian Space Works From the Montclair Art Museum's Permanent Collection, New Jersey, 2004-05. This current exhibition, Howard Daum, Modernist Drawings and Prints, is shown at the Susan Teller Gallery, May 16 through June 23, 2007.

Work by Daum is in the collections of the Art Students League, NY, the Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey, the Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, and the Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

** Artists associated with Indian Space are Will Barnet, Robert Barrell, Gertrude Barrer, Peter Busa, Oscar Collier, Howard Daum, Helen De Mott, Ruth Lewin, Lillian Orloff, Robert Smith, and Steve Wheeler.*

1. ***Army Hospital, (Mississippi),*** 1943
Watercolor and ink, sheet size 9 x 12 inches
Small loss upper left.
Titled, dated, and annotated "By Priv. Daum," in ink.

2. ***(Seated Figure),*** 1944/45
Made in Hans Hofmann's class.
Ink drawing, sheet size 6 x 5 inches
Signed in ink.

3. ***(Seated Figure),*** 1944/45
Made in Hans Hofmann's class.
Mixed media, sheet size 14 x 11 inches
Minor defects.
Signed in ink.

4. ***(Landscape),*** 1945
Gouache drawing, sheet size 12 x 17 inches
Minor defects.
Signed and dated in green ink.

5. ***Maverick Road, Woodstock (NY),*** 1945
Gouache drawing, sheet size 9 x 12 inches
Traces of tape on the reverse.
Signed, titled, and dated, in ink.

6. ***(Seated Figure),*** 1945
Made in Hans Hofmann's class.
Mixed media, sheet size 9 x 8 inches
Traces of notebook holes at left, mounted to support sheet.
Signed and dated in ink.

7. ***(Embrace),*** about 1945
Red oil paint on paper, sheet 17¾ x 12¼ inches
Signed in pencil.

8. ***(Yellow and Green Abstraction),*** about 1945
Oil paint on paper, sheet size 17½ x 12¼ inches
Signed at upper left.

9. ***Five Figures,*** about 1945
Gouache and charcoal, sight 18 x 23 inches
Signed with paint at bottom.

10. ***Roof at 30 E. 14th (NY),*** 1945/46
The artist's studio was in this building.
Ink over pencil, sheet size 11 x 14 inches
Signed in green ink; titled on the reverse in ink.

11. ***(Three Women),*** 1945/46
Etching, 6 x 8¾ inches
Signed in green ink.

23. ***(Landscape),*** 1959

15. ***(Two Figures),*** about 1947

12. ***Cat and Bird,*** 1946
Linocut, 5 x 7½ inches
Authenticated by the artist's cousin,
Stephen Rogers, in pencil.

13. ***(Figure with Raised Arms),*** 1946
Linocut, 5 x 8 inches
Authenticated by the artist's cousin,
Stephen Rogers, in pencil.

14. ***(Abstract Figure),*** 1946
Ink and brown watercolor, sheet 11 x 9 inches
Mounted to board, tears and creases.
Signed and dated in ink.

15. ***(Two Figures),*** about 1947
Gouache and ink, sheet size 16 x 7 inches
Authenticated by the artist's cousin,
Stephen Rogers, in pencil.

16. ***Provincetown, Massachusetts,*** 1947
Mixed media, sheet size 8⅜ x 11⅜ inches
Minor defects at edges.
Signed and dated in ink.

17. ***From El Greco,*** about 1950
After El Greco's *View of Toledo*, 1597/99.
Ink drawing, sheet size 20 x 16 inches
Very minor defects.
Signed and titled in ink.

18. ***(Head of a Courtesan),*** about 1950
From Edouard Manet's *Olympia*, 1863
Oil on board, 13½ x 10½
Pinholes at bottom.
Signed on the reverse.

19. ***(Mother's Living Room),*** 1954
Oil paint on paper, sheet size 17 x 22 inches
Signed and dated in ink.

20. ***(Studio with Black Cat),*** about 1954
The Artist's Studio.
Oil paint over ink on paper,
sheet size 17 x 22 inches
Pinholes at corners.
Signed lower right.

21. ***Woman with Glass,*** 1955
Ink drawing, sheet size 24 x 18 inches
Minor defects
Signed and dated in ink.

22. ***(Seated Figure),*** about 1955
Color ink over pencil, sheet size 11 x 8 inches
Mounted to support sheet at top corners.
Signed in ink.

14. ***(Abstract Figure),*** 1946

27. ***(Indian Space Study),*** 1971

23. ***(Landscape),*** 1959
Mixed media, sheet size 11 x 14 inches
Signed and dated in ink.

24. ***Bronx Park,*** about 1960
Crayon drawing, sheet size 8 x 11 inches
Minor defects.
Signed and titled "Bx. Pk.," in green ink.

25. ***Central Park,*** about 1960
Mixed media, sheet size 9 x 12 inches
Signed and titled in green ink.

26. ***(Indian Space Study),*** 1971
Ink on brown paper, mounted to board,
sheet size 11 x 17 inches
Signed in ink.

27. ***(Indian Space Study),*** 1971
Ink on brown paper,
sheet size 13 x 15 inches
Minor defects.
Signed and dated "September 24, 1971," in ink.

28. ***(Green Indian Space Study, No. 1),*** 1971
Green ink drawing, sheet size 8⅞ x 6 inches
Notebook holes at top edge.
Signed in ink.

29. ***(Green Indian Space Study, No. 2),*** 1971
Green ink drawing, sheet size 8⅞ x 6 inches
Notebook holes at top edge, dark ink at edges.
Signed in ink.

30. ***(Green Indian Space Study, No. 3),*** 1971
Green ink drawing, sheet size 8⅞ x 6 inches
Notebook holes at bottom edge.
Signed in ink.

31. ***Another Spring,*** 1982
Oil paint on paper, sheet size 11¾ x 8¾ inches
Mounted to red support sheet.
Signed at bottom; titled, dated, and extensively annotated, in ink.

Front cover illustration: 22. ***(Seated Figure),*** about 1955
Back cover illustration: 6. ***(Seated Figure),*** 1945