

Janet Sobel
Puma Gallery
108 West 57th Street NYC
April 24 – May 14, 1944

Catalog Introduction by John Dewey

It is a pleasure to respond to an invitation to say a few words in connection with the first one-man show of Janet Sobel, some of whose work is appearing contemporaneously in a travelling exhibit of American Abstract and Surrealist painting, which is now touring the Western states to San Francisco.

The work of Mrs. Sobel would be of great human interest if only because she commenced painting, with no previous set instruction after she had reached a fairly advanced age, but what is more striking is its union of youthful spontaneity and a certain characteristic individualized finish.

Her work is extraordinarily free from imitativeness and from self-consciousness and pretense. One can believe that to an unusual degree her forms and colors well up from a subconsciousness that is richly stored with sensitive impressions received directly from contact with nature, impressions which have been reorganized in figures in which color and form are happily wed.

As in the case of all interesting and genuine productions, different observers will be struck with different notes.

The quality I myself seem to feel most vividly is that of the interblending of the abundant life of vegetation with the sparser life of human beings in a kind of brooding maternal wholeness.