



Untitled (JS-039), c. 1943, oil on masonite, 22 1/2 x 17 7/8 inches

****Janet Sobel's major drip painting, "Milky Way", purchased from Sobel in 1968 by William Rubin, is now on exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art.***

PRESS RELEASE

Gary Snyder/Project Space will present a one-person exhibition of paintings and works on paper by Janet Sobel (1894 - 1966) at the new Outsider Art Fair, which opens to the public on January 9th, 2009.

Janet Sobel is best known as the self-taught artist whose drip paintings of the early 1940s influenced Jackson Pollock. Her work has been acclaimed both in the "high" art world of Abstract Expressionism, and in the "outsider" or "Folk Art" world of self-taught artists

Sobel was born in 1894 in the Ukraine, emigrated to New York in 1908, and married and raised a family of five children before becoming, "one of America's most talked about surrealist painters..." Completely untrained, Sobel first painted in 1937 at the age of 43. She began with figurative images that were painted in a primitive style. By 1943 her work had moved into a spontaneous expressionistic style of abstraction that gained her serious admiration among such art world luminaries as Peggy Guggenheim, the surrealists Max Ernst and Andre Breton, the philosopher and educator John Dewey and critic and collector Sidney Janis.

Her first one-person show was at Puma Gallery at 108 West Fifty-seventh Street in 1944; a short essay about Sobel by John Dewey introduced the checklist. She was in the Women show at Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century gallery, in 1945, and in 1946 Guggenheim gave her a one-person show .

Clement Greenberg and Jackson Pollock attended the Peggy Guggenheim exhibition in 1946, and most probably the 1944 show at Puma Gallery. Greenberg later recalled that after seeing Sobel's all-over drip paintings, "Pollock (and I myself) admired these pictures rather furtively... The effect and it was the first really 'all-over' one that I had seen, since [Mark] Tobey's show came months later, was strangely pleasing. Later on, Pollock admitted that these pictures had made an impression on him."

For further information please visit <http://www.garysnyderart.com/projectspace/current/>

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Outsider Art Fair/ Janet Sobel Lecture

January 9 -11, 2009
Preview Opening January 8
"7 West New York"
7 West 34th Street
New York City

GARY SNYDER/Project Space
featuring paintings and
works on paper by
Janet Sobel at Booth 31

Gary Snyder will be lecturing on Janet Sobel as part of the following program. His talk will begin around 3pm.

Uncommon Artists XVII: A Series Of Cameo Talks

The Anne Hill Blanchard Symposium

The Mart

7 West 34th Street

Saturday, January 10, 2009

2 - 4 pm

\$35 general; \$30 members, seniors, students

Presenters: Susan Mitchell Crawley on Jimmy Lee Sudduth; Mike Noland and Jeff Way on Ernest "Popeye" Reed; Edward M. Puchner on Henry Speller; Gary Snyder on Janet Sobel