

JACK RUTBERG FINE ARTS

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Extended Through August 31, 2010 **Arshile Gorky: Sketchbook Drawings**

Los Angeles, CA – Jack Rutberg Fine Arts in Los Angeles is presents a rare exhibition of drawings by one of the most pivotal and significant 20th century American painters, Arshile Gorky (1904-1948). The exhibition extends through August 31. **“Arshile Gorky: Sketchbook Drawings”** features Gorky’s early sketchbook drawings dating from the early and mid 1930s. It was during that period when Gorky absorbed and re-defined European avant-garde sensibilities, having at that time a profound impact upon such artists as Willem de Kooning, Hans Burkhardt, Stuart Davis, John Graham, Isamu Noguchi and what ultimately became known as the New York School.

The drawings in this exhibition reveal Gorky’s early ruminations on cubism and biomorphic abstraction, well before his encounter with the European expatriates who arrived in N.Y. during World War II. These preliminary, yet informative drawings originated from the collection of the artist, Hans Burkhardt. When Hans Burkhardt (b.1904 Basel, Switzerland - d.1994 Los Angeles) left New York late in 1937, after sharing Arshile Gorky’s studio for nearly nine years, he brought to Los Angeles the largest holdings of works by his friend and mentor, outside Gorky’s own holdings. Burkhardt was the first to introduce Gorky’s work to other artists and curators in L.A. and his collection was the subject of a number of Gorky museum exhibitions. That back-story to Los Angeles’ connection to Arshile Gorky is underscored by the Philadelphia Museum of Art’s (PMA) recent inclusion of a poignant painting by Hans Burkhardt entitled “Burial of Gorky” 1950, in their recent exhibition “Arshile Gorky in Context” which ran concurrently with the PMA’s groundbreaking survey, “Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective.” Burkhardt’s painting now resides in the permanent collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Works in **“Arshile Gorky: Sketchbook Drawings”** are offered following their inclusion in several museum exhibitions throughout the country. They were the subject of the last publication on Gorky’s works by the late Gorky scholar, Melvin P. Lader, *Arshile Gorky: The Early Years* published by Jack Rutberg Fine Arts in 2004.

“Arshile Gorky: Sketchbook Drawings” runs concurrently with the major exhibition, **“Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective”** at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles, after its recent exhibition at the Tate Modern, London and the originating museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

“Arshile Gorky: Sketchbook Drawings” extends through August 31 and shown in tandem with the major exhibition **“Patrick Graham - fact of the matter”** featuring works by the important contemporary Irish artist. Jack Rutberg Fine Arts is located at 357 N. La Brea Avenue. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For additional information, please telephone (323) 938-5222.

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Images from both exhibitions are available for press purposes upon request