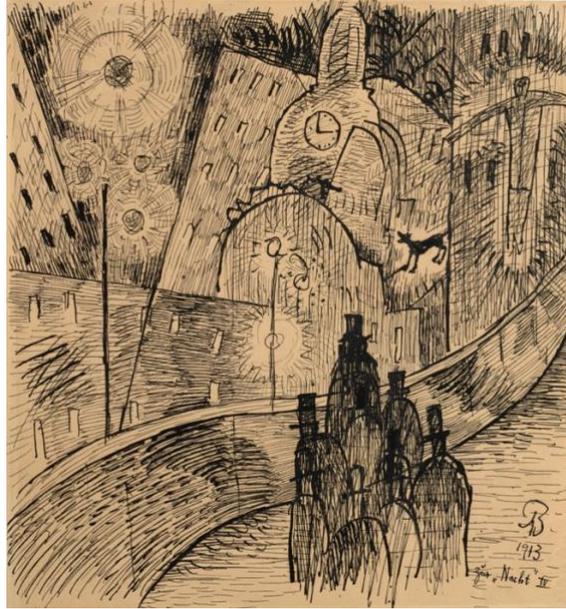


Menconi + Schoelkopf



Nacht IV, 1913. Albert Bloch.

MENCONI + SCHOELKOPF PRESENTS *ALBERT BLOCH: EXPRESSIONIST*

***Albert Bloch: Expressionist* will be on view from February 28th through March 25th at the gallery and online.**

The exhibition presents the career and contributions of a pioneering American artist who was the only American member of the Blue Rider Group's important first show and is considered a pivotal figure in the history of Modernism.

NEW YORK, NY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 – Menconi + Schoelkopf, a leading gallery in the field of American art, today announced that it will present ***Albert Bloch: Expressionist***, an exhibition curated with Stacey B. Epstein Ph.D., composed of Bloch's paintings, drawings and prints, along with a painting by fellow Blue Rider artist Franz Marc consigned by the Albert Bloch Foundation. The exhibition presents the subjects and themes that Bloch explored in his famed Blue Rider period including his close relationship with Marc and introduces audiences to the artist's lesser-known late works that were created in America as more private endeavors. As guest curator of the show, Stacey B. Epstein brings three decades of expertise in 20th century European and American art as an advisor, scholar and author.

The extraordinary exhibition will run from February 28th through March 25th at the Menconi + Schoelkopf gallery located at 22 East 80th Street in New York City.

Albert Bloch was a pioneering American artist who advanced the cause of Modernism in the early decades of the 20th century. He was of German descent and lived in a German-American community in St. Louis Missouri before expatriating to Munich in 1909. There, he became an integral part of the vanguard German art scene while exhibiting Expressionist works alongside fellow artists Wassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc and Gabriel Mürter. They collaborated as a group called Der Blaue Reiter to break from academic tradition, and their new art grounded in a spiritual message became an essential aspect of German Expressionism. As the only American member of the Blue Rider group, Bloch was an important voice in the dialogue across continents during this innovative time and emerges as a pivotal figure in the history of Modernism. After his time in Europe, Bloch returned to the United States in 1921 where he spent another three decades working and teaching away from the limelight. Works from this time, created practically in isolation and lesser-known to audiences, will also be on view.

"I have always been captivated by Albert Bloch's work," said Andy Schoelkopf, Owner of Menconi + Schoelkopf. "He is less well known here in the United States - a victim, I suppose, of the previous Paris-centric view of the evolution of American modernism. He was an absolutely stellar draftsman, and a superb painter. I think the exhibition will open quite a few eyes."

"The Albert Bloch Foundation is very happy to partner with Menconi + Schoelkopf on this especially select group of Bloch's work, mostly from the Foundation's collection," added Scott Hefley of the Bloch Foundation. "Not since 1998, at the Hollis Taggart Gallery, has there been such a comprehensive representation of Bloch's work in New York City. Menconi + Schoelkopf's network of clients and friends will broaden Bloch's reach which is a central component of the Foundation's mission. Stacey Epstein, formerly with Hollis Taggart Gallery in 1998, and Andy Schoelkopf curated a terrific and broad group of Bloch's work. Working with the Menconi + Schoelkopf team returns me to my years working at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. They have the same level of friendly professionalism filled with full enthusiasm."

"Bloch's exquisitely crafted drawings and prints as well as his paintings offer poetic perspective on a world mysteriously suspended in a realm between reality and imagination," writes Stacey B. Epstein in an essay accompanying the show. She continues, "This imagery is richly layered with meaning and allusions that recontextualize seemingly obvious subject matter. Mortals are recast in metaphorical and even metaphysical terms in the guise of Pierrots, clowns, harlequins and carnival figures."

Included in the show is the painting *Kühe (Cows)* by Franz Marc. Bloch and Marc shared a close bond and Bloch held him in extremely high regard evidenced in the following quote by Bloch, "My first

experience of his work—a large one man show at Der modernen Galerie in Munich early in 1911 before I had met the man himself, took me captive at first sight . . . [h]ere, at last, I found painting which fed in full measure my need and my longing . . .”¹

Marc created *Kühe (Cows)* in 1912 at a pivotal moment in his career after co-founding the Blue Rider group with Wassily Kandinsky, a work which illustrates his important contribution to the modernist movement in the early decades of the twentieth century. Featuring Marc’s primary theme of animals in harmony with nature, *Kühe* illustrates the unique visual language that he created incorporating bold color and Cubist technique to convey a spiritual message in his art.

About Menconi + Schoelkopf

Menconi + Schoelkopf is a leader in the field of American art, focusing on the finest works of this country’s artists, created from 1875 to today. The gallery’s program communicates the entire sweep of the modernist impulse in America through its presentation of innovative and important works in both abstract and realist modes. The mission of the gallery is to expand the field of American art through research, scholarship and treasured relationships with the leading collectors and museums. The gallery is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America, of which Andrew Schoelkopf served as President, and the Private Art Dealers Association. It maintains a robust schedule of programming and exhibitions which support the engagement of new audiences. The gallery strives to inspire a richer understanding of the contributions of the leading American artists. The gallery is located on New York City’s Upper East Side and is open to the public and by appointment. Visit: www.msfineart.com for a schedule of upcoming programming.

Images + Credits:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w0x4tvmq3pdrxmz/AAB7bGGjNY_NzP_yo5AeuSIYa?dl=0

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¹ James Penney, *Albert Bloch 1882-1961: An American Expressionist: Paintings, Drawings, Prints* (Utica, New York: Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 1974), p. 6