



Main Auction Galleries – November 15th, 2009 Auction – Artist Information

PAUL CADMUS

Born December 17, 1904, New York.

Paul Cadmus is an artist for whom the human body is infinitely interesting. His drawings of the male nude is the variety of angles, the foreshortening, and the triumphant illusion of mass on a flat surface. His drawings of male nudes are not only of bodies, but of achieved, perfected bodies that serve as symbols, as in ancient Greece, of a perfect unity of spirit and flesh, mind and body. For Cadmus, the body is the person, not a vehicle of flesh or Manichean shell. Cadmus took pride in being an anatomist. Ardon once remarked that Cadmus genetic blend, part Dutch and part Spanish was the perfect combination for accuracy of perception and moral indignation, He has always been able to balance his critique of the world with a lyric expression of what he finds to be beautiful. Cadmus draws on toned paper, the short parallel lines, with graphite images and with quick, short strokes. He works with the same meticulous calligraphy to crosshat thing. His male nudes are fusions of Renaissance and what we might call modern domestic nudity. George Tooker and Jared French were his allies. These three constitute a distinct school, with Tooker's kafkaesque enigmas and French's surreal psychology were extensions of Cadmus' realism. In Cadmus, we have a rare balance that few artists achieve in any medium: compassion and contempt.

I believe that art is not only more true but also more living and vital if it derives its immediate inspiration and its outward form from contemporary life. Entering the world of human beings plunges one immediately into a mixture of emotions, thoughts and actions – some pleasant, some disturbing, but whether uplifting or disgusting, those reactions spring from a vital source, Paul Cadmus.

Grant Wood "Midnight Alarm", pencil signed, published in 1939, unframed (16" x 12")
1892-1942, Ex Collection Bob White, Oxford, Ohio



JARED FRENCH

Jared French was born in 1905 in Ossining, New York. He attended Amherst College in the 1920's and lived in Italy in 1988. His work has been described as magic realism, isolation, alienation and anxiety. French was a strong influence on Paul Cadmus. French served as the model for Cadmus' first significant male nude entitled "Jerry" (1931). His work is exhibited in several museums as well as in private collections around the world. His 2 studies are in the collection of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

GEORGE TOOKER

George Tooker was born in Brooklyn, New York, a famous painter whose work reflects both his privileged circumstances and the understanding of those less comfortable. He studied under Malcolm Frazier, and attended Phillips Academy in Massachusetts. He went on to Harvard University and then studied at the Art Students League in New York City in 1943, under Reginald Marsh. In 1946 he began spending time with Paul Cadmus as a friend and pupil. Cadmus encouraged him to work with tempera rather than the transparent work technique taught by Marsh. From 1965 to 1968 he taught at the Art Student League. His first one-man exhibition was at the Edwin Hewitt Gallery in New York in 1951.

MICHAEL BERGT

Michael Bergt was born in 1956 in New Mexico. He is known for surreal and node figure painting. He has been featured in several art magazines and has also exhibited at major galleries. He can be found at the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira, New York and Kresge Art Museum in East Lansing, Michigan.

EMLLEN POPE ETTING

Emlen Pope Etting was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1905. He died in 1993. He had numerous one-man shows in New York, Philadelphia and Paris. His work is in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and in private collections of Walter H. Annenberg and the late Helen Hayes, Bernice Winterstein, Mary Clark Rockefeller and in several museums. He was a former President of the Alliance Frincaise in Philadelphia and Founder and President of the Philadelphia Chapter of Artists Equity.



HOWARD BAER

Howard Baer was born in 1907 in Pennsylvania. He died in 1986. He received his education at the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh. His works are in museums as well as in private collections.

REGINALD MARSH

Reginald Marsh was born in Paris in 1898 and died in Dorset, Vermont in 1954. he studied at Yale University and the Art Student League. He worked as an illustrator in New York for the Daily News and The New Yorker.

GWEN LUX

Gwen Lux was born in 1908 in Chicago, Illinois and died in 2001 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her sculptures combine abstraction and realism, and are constituted from polyester resin concrete and metals. She has exhibited in major museums and has won several awards.