

F E R G U S O N

F R A M E & G A L L E R Y

LYNNE MAPP DREXLER (American, 1928-1999)

Lynne Mapp Drexler is a painter associated with the second generation of abstract expressionist painters that emerged in the latter half of the 1950s, a group which included Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, Grace Hartigan and Joan Mitchell. Her major influences include her teachers Robert Motherwell and Hans Hofmann.

Lynne Mapp Drexler was born in Newport News, Virginia in 1928. Drexler began her study of art as a child painting landscapes by the age of eight. In the late 50s after attending the College of William and Mary, she immersed herself in abstract expressionism, studying with Hans Hofmann in both his New York and Provincetown schools. From there she went on to graduate study at Hunter College in New York with teacher Robert Motherwell. The 1950s set the foundation for the painting she is known for. The results are not familiar to most students of the period. Her crisp and colorful painterly brushwork is quite unique when compared with her contemporaries of the abstract expressionist genre. The style she developed owes something to many influences but is derivative of none.

After her marriage to painter John Hultberg in 1961, whom she met at the Artist's Club, the couple began summering on remote Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine where she had the opportunity to paint and sketch outdoors. Back in New York during the winters, these sketches were re-imagined into luxurious and colorful abstract paintings. She would frequent the opera and sketch during the performances. Drexler's affinity with nature and music would become intertwined in her work. Unhappy with the male dominated art system and art politics of New York, she finally moved permanently to the island where she lived the last 16 years of her life, dying there, surrounded by fellow islanders and friends, in 1999. Drexler exhibited extensively through her career at venues such as Tanager Gallery, Esther Robles Gallery and Westerly Gallery.

Drexler, like many women of the 50s and 60s, were often eclipsed by their male counterparts. Even though their work was executed with as much competence and training, women tended to be disregarded in the male dominated gallery scene of New York. The recent resurgence of interest in Drexler and other women like her has brought many artists out of the shadows with a new sense of discovery and appreciation.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Museum of Modern Art, NY
Hudson River Museum, NY
Queens Museum, NY
Brooklyn Museum, NY
National Gallery of Art, D.C.
Smithsonian Institution, D.C.
Portland Museum of Art, ME
Farnsworth Art Museum, ME
Provincetown Art Association and Museum, MA

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Bates College, ME
Art Institute of Chicago, IL
Tamarind Print Collection, CA
University of Massachusetts, MA
John Legend and Chrissy Teigen, NY