

MEREDITH WARD FINE ART

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Meredith Ward Fine Art

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LYNNE DREXLER: THE MONHEGAN ISLAND YEARS
May 8 – July 28, 2023

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Meredith Ward Fine Art is pleased to present **Lynne Drexler: The Monhegan Island Years**, an exhibition of 13 paintings and 3 drawings from the 1960s to the 1990s which will be on view from May 12 through July 28, 2023. The exhibition is drawn largely from the collection of the artist Jerry Vis, a friend of Drexler's on Monhegan Island. "Like so many women artists, Drexler's work was overlooked for most of her career," said Meredith Ward, President of the gallery. "We are happy to be a part of bringing her the attention she deserves."

Lynne Drexler (1928-1999) moved to New York City from her native Virginia in the mid-1950s. Her study with Robert Motherwell and Hans Hoffman helped her to understand, as curator John Seed observes in his essay for the exhibition catalogue, "that she could activate the



Play Fish, 1991, oil on canvas, 36 x 38 inches

space of her compositions by using vibrant, carefully arranged colors."

Beginning in 1963, Drexler spent summers on Monhegan Island with her husband, the artist John Hultberg. After their marriage broke up, Drexler remained on Monhegan for the rest of her life and became an active member of the small community there. Her early abstract works with titles like *Burst Sun* and *Broken Shadows*, capture her experiences of the organic world - light and shadow, night and day - in broken brushstrokes that form her

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signature tapestry-like surface.

Drexler's later work is similarly rooted in the ordinary subjects she found in the world around her: a rake (*Raked Off*, 1989); the corner of a garden (*Again Harmony*, 1995) or fallen tree trunks (*Trunk Grass*, 1980). The monumental painting *Play Fish*, 1991, combines aspects of a traditional still life with the bright colors and intricate patterning that characterized her work.

Artist Jerry Vis got to know Drexler on Monhegan Island, and over a period of twenty years, they developed a deep friendship. Vis became captivated by her work and became an avid collector. "Her style was unique," he said, "unlike anybody else I've ever seen." John Seed writes, "Through their deep connection, Vis gained a sense of Drexler's importance long before her death in 1999 revealed it to a wider audience."



Again Harmony, 1995, oil on canvas, 10 x 12 inches



Raked Off, 1989, oil on canvas, 36 x 31 inches

Lynne Drexler: The Monhegan Island Years is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with an essay by John Seed, available in print and online.

About the Gallery

Meredith Ward Fine Art opened in 2004 specializing in American art from the 19th century to the present. The gallery is the exclusive representative of the estates of Flora Crockett, Joseph Fiore, and Steve Wheeler. Meredith Ward Fine Art is located at 44 East 74th Street, Suite G, in New York City and is currently open Monday through Friday, 10am to 5pm. For more information or images, contact Meghan Schwab at 212-744-7306 or info@meredithwardfineart.com.

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