



Meredith Ward Fine Art

Charles Biederman

Works from the Thirties

November 11, 2005 – January 14, 2006

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Charles Biederman (1906-2004)

#6, 1935

Oil on canvas

36 1/4 x 28 1/18 in.

Charles Biederman: Works from the Thirties will be on view at Meredith Ward Fine Art from November 11, 2005 through January 14, 2006. The show will mark the 70th anniversary of Biederman's first one-man exhibition in New York at the Pierre Matisse Gallery in 1936 and will be the first exhibition dedicated to Biederman's work in New York in more than a decade. The show will include 15 works – oils, gouaches, drawings, and constructions – many of which have never before been exhibited.

The exhibition will focus on the seminal years in Biederman's development between 1934 and 1938 during which he grew out of a Cezannesque style to adopt a purely abstract painting vocabulary. The paintings and works on paper from 1935 to 1936, which were the subject of the 1936 Matisse Gallery show, ultimately led to the three-dimensional wood, glass, and aluminum constructions that preoccupied him exclusively after 1939. Two early painted wood constructions from 1938 will be included in the exhibition. The present exhibition looks back seventy years to that seminal moment in Biederman's career, and to a critical period in the development of abstract art in America.

Biederman's work of the 1930s was strongly influenced by European precedents, including Cubism, De Stijl, Russian Constructivism, and, to some extent, Surrealism. Ultimately, however, it was Biederman's unique synthesis of De Stijl's nature-based abstraction and Russian Constructivist form that led him produce the constructions for which he became known.



#6 New York, 1938
Painted wood, 27 1/4 x 24 x 5 1/4 in.

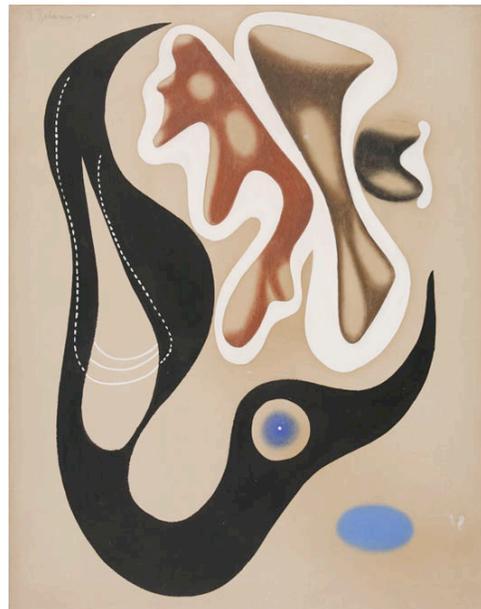
The mid-1930s were fertile years for the development of abstract painting in America. In 1936, running concurrently with Biederman's show at the Matisse Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art held its landmark exhibition, *Cubism and Abstract Art*. Also that spring, Albert Gallatin presented *Five Contemporary American Concretionists* at his Gallery of Living Art, including works by Biederman, Alexander Calder, John Ferren, George L.K. Morris, and Charles Shaw.

Biederman's one-man show at Pierre Matisse Gallery opened to positive reviews. Emily Genauer was among the critics to write favorably about the show, when she described it as "one of the most

brilliant one-man exhibitions of the week," and called the paintings "wonderful rapports of space, color and form." In the months after the show, however, Biederman had a falling-out with Matisse. He left for Paris, and did not show his work in New York again until the 1960s.

Charles Biederman was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended the Art Institute of Chicago Art School, and spent a year in Paris in 1936-37. Upon his return to the United States, he settled first in New York, then in Chicago. In 1942, he moved to Red Wing, Minnesota, where he lived and worked for the rest of his life.

Charles Biederman: Works from the Thirties will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue.



#6, 1936
Pastel and gouache on paper, 29 1/2 x 23 in.

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 estate of John Marin. Meredith Ward Fine Art is located at 60 East 66th Street in New York City and is open to the public during this exhibition Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information or images, contact Meredith Ward at 212-744-7306.

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