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# Stories and Discoveries

*Meredith Ward Fine Art provides a glimpse of Steve Wheeler's previously unseen artwork*

**November 11-December 23**

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**S**teve Wheeler put on his last solo show in 1951, but he didn't stop creating art. This past summer, Meredith Ward Fine Art began their representation of the Wheeler estate, and their exhibition of his works will begin on November 11.

The show, which focuses on his later works of the late '50s and early '60s, will present many works that have never been seen before. The new images, which were found in his studio at the time of his death, are a continuation on the themes of his earlier works and are mainly black-and-white drawings on canvas. They continue to explore



**Steve Wheeler (1912-1992), *Untitled*, ca. 1960s.** Oil and ink on canvas, 30 x 33<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in.



**Steve Wheeler (1912-1992), *Untitled*, ca. 1960s.** Oil and ink on canvas, 27 x 30 in.

shape, form and space, and they will be supplemented by some of Wheeler's earlier, previously seen pieces.

Wheeler was born in 1912, the same year as Jackson Pollock, and according to gallery owner Meredith Ward, "The two artists have roots that are grounded in the same soil, in surrealism and in exploration of space." Where Pollock's work is sweeping, Wheeler's work is incredibly complex and compressed.

One of the images on display is an untitled black-and-white line drawing, with a blue transparent overlay. The intricate piece projects strength and

power, and invites the viewer to ask questions about the story behind the art and make discoveries based on the clues hidden in the imagery.

Titles like *The Fox Went Out* and *Presenting Miss America* can point viewers in the right direction, but many of the images that were discovered posthumously remain untitled, meaning viewers have to depend exclusively on the visuals to interpret the image. Ward says, "That process of discovery and finding forms, and exploring the landscape with the artist," is what draws people to Wheeler's work. ■



Steve Wheeler (1912-1992), *Untitled 1*, ca. 1960s. Oil and ink on canvas, 23 x 16 in. Images courtesy Meredith Ward Fine Art.