

# Abraham Rattner

1895-1978

Abraham Rattner, one of America's leading Expressionist painters, was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1895 and died in New York City in 1978. He studied architecture at George Washington University and art at Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC as well as at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, where he won a Cresson traveling fellowship to Paris. He also studied at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts, l'Académie de la Grande Chaumière and Académie Ranson in Paris.

In 1935, he had his first one-man-show at the Galerie Bonjean, Paris, at which time the French government purchased *Card Party* for the Louvre Museum collection. In 1940, he toured the United States with Henry Miller, resulting in an iconoclastic travelogue, *The Air-conditioned Nightmare*, with text by Miller and drawings by Rattner.

Rattner was artist-in-residence at the American Academy in Rome; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and Michigan State University, East Lansing. He also taught at the New School for Social Research and The Art Students League in Manhattan.

His stained glass and mosaics can be found at the Museum of Art, Flint, MI and Loop Synagogue, Chicago. His works have been the subject of many important one-man exhibitions, including shows at the Art Institute of Chicago; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia. Museum collections include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Musée du Jeu de Paume, Paris; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC and Art Institute of Chicago.

There have been many books and articles about Abraham Rattner and his work, including the major monograph, *Rattner*, by Allen Leepa (Harry N. Abrams, publisher, 1978).