

Robert Motherwell: The East Hampton Years, 1944-1952

Phyllis Tuchman

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- •Published to coincide with an exhibition to be held at the Guild Hall, East Hampton, New York from 9th August 13th October, 2014
- •First book entirely dedicated to Motherwell's early career. Motherwell himself fondly remembered his East Hampton years and declared, "I did some of the best work of my life there"
- •Motherwell's work is widely acclaimed; The Guggenheim Museum (Venice and New York) recently exhibited a collection of his collages

Robert Motherwell is a monograph to this pioneering Abstract Expressionist, who enjoyed early recognition. At 29 years, he had his first solo show at Peggy Guggenheim's legendary gallery (1944). A year later he moved to East Hampton, New York and commissioned a house from French architect Pierre Chareau.

None of the exhibitions dedicated to Motherwell have focused on this period and on the place where he came of age as an artist. He produced paintings, collages, and drawings that brought abstraction into the lingua franca of art created on the American side of the Atlantic.

Motherwell possessed a Minimalist sensibility and many of his finest works from this period have only a few colors and shapes. About his Wall Painting with Stripes of 1944, for example, he explained "I'm not interested in painting the embellishments of reality, but in finding a direct, intense single sense of oneness with it."

This catalog explores how Motherwell used Surrealist techniques to make his abstractions and uncovers the influence of Picasso and Matisse on his early work.



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