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Allegretto 1961

Lithographs by Twenty-Five Soviet Artists

LENINGRAD EXPERIMENTAL GRAPHICS LABORATORY

NOVEMBER 1-25, 1961

Most of us who have visited the Soviet Union in recent years have come to recognize that some of the best work being done by Russian artists is in the field of print making. But up till now few have had the opportunity to judge just how good such work is. That the graphic arts should today flourish in Russia is not surprising. From Reypin, who, if his drawings were known in the west, would be generally recognized as the brilliant draughtsman he is, to the work of those associated with Miriskusstva and the prints of artists like M. V. Yakunchikova, who were active in the last quarter of the 19th century and the early years of our own century, on to book illustrators at work between the wars, such as I. I. Bilibin, the graphic arts in Russia, have had notable exponents. A link with these traditions is provided by some of those included in this exhibition, as for instance Anatoli Kaplan, who was born in 1902 and Serge Maximilianovich Steinberg, who died this year.

Yuri Veznezov's illustrations to children's stories establish a different note. In them the element of fantasy is strong, but they too have a moving poetical vein and they reach deep into the realm of Russian folk-lore. Their mixture of the naive and the dream-like, coupled as it is with notable decorative qualities, reinforces the appeal, on a more sophisticated level, they make to our emotions. Gerda Nemenova's work also seems to me outstanding. Her best lithographs are extremely simple, but eloquent. She conveys an intimation into character and, equally important, she catches the spirit of Gogol. Another artist who will surprise those who assume all contemporary Russian art is devoted to the doctrine of Socialist Realism is G. A. Israelevich. His prints of owls, and above all his *Time is Going* display acute powers of imagination and linger in the mind.

I believe Kaplan to be the best of these artists. His illustrations to *Tevia the Milkman* strike a poignant note. He certainly owes much to his Jewish blood, and in mood he sometimes comes close to Chagall, but he also owes more to the rich substratum of poetry underlying so much of Russian literature. Also, from the purely technical point of view, his prints in black and white are remarkable; their gradations of tone and the rich velvet-like quality he achieves are very satisfying.

The work of Skouliari and Vedernikov is very different. Both know how to simplify effectively and to make bold use of bright colours. Another point of interest is that Vedernikov has clearly learnt much from Matisse. This is what one might expect in view of the splendid collection of the latter's work in the Hermitage, including as it does his vast and superb painting of dancing figures, executed in 1910, pulsating with energy and surely one of the greatest pictures of this century. That Matisse should influence present day Russian artists can only be to the good.

As far as subject matter is concerned the works of Skouliari and Vedernikov in this exhibition might have been produced anywhere. But there are other prints that will appeal to those who have felt the fascination of the Russian countryside or have experienced the beauty of Leningrad. Sudakov's work is an example of the former, while Charnetskaya and Steinberg capture the atmosphere of Leningrad.

The sort of people who move about her streets are portrayed with understanding and wit by Vera Matiukh, while by Shenderov there are ballerinas and one very good nude study.

Altogether this is an exhibition that should dislodge some prejudices, for it suggests the variety of work being done in lithography by Russian artists; work which is technically of high quality and, in certain instances, displays imagination and strikes poetical chords.



The talk of London in May — the Spring of this year — was an exhibition of lithographs from the Leningrad Experimental Graphic Workshop, which was being held at the Grosvenor Galleries. As Helen Lambert in a special release to the New York Herald Tribune wrote, "It was the first showing of unregimented Soviet work to be seen in the West." Arrangements were made with Mr. Eric Estorick, Director of the Grosvenor Gallery, to bring the exhibition to Associated American Artists for the premier showing of Soviet lithographs in the United States. Associated American Artists is currently working on sending an exhibition of American prints to Leningrad in 1962.

Forward Sylvan Cole, Jr.

Since communication with the Soviet Union is limited, it has been difficult to obtain information as to how these original prints are actually created. Fortunately, the noted American artist, Anton Refregier, had in 1959 visited the Leningrad Graphic Workshop. This much we have learned from him: In order to be an artist in Russia, one must attend an academy, go through an apprenticeship and then be accepted by the Artists' Union. Once in the Union, the artist gets a studio in which to work and, as in the case of Leningrad, may apply to work in the Graphic Workshop. The Leningrad Experimental Graphic Workshop has five full-time printers. The artist whose application for working there is accepted, goes to the workshop for a period of one to two months. The artist pays only for the cost of his material. He, in turn, receives 10 impressions of each lithograph he creates, one of which is retained by the Experimental Graphic Workshop for their archives. The artist may sell or dispose of the 9 prints he receives as he wishes. Those prints that are retained in the archives are reviewed periodically by the directors of the Artists' Union who, if they so desire, may order for the State a tirage of 500 impressions. This edition is distributed to factories, libraries, recreation halls, collective farms, and schools throughout the Soviet Union.

Since most of the lithographs exhibited in London were sold, we are grateful to Mr. Estorick for securing additional impressions from the artists of the Leningrad Experimental Graphic Workshop so that they could be exhibited here.







BRITANISHSKY L.

Born 1897

- 1 Flowers and Apples

BRODSKI Valentin

Born 1905

Studied at the Academy in Leningrad 1922-24 and at the studio of Dobujinsky. Worked for newspapers as an illustrator; now works as a lithographer. Since 1946 has taken part in Leningrad graphics exhibitions. Reader of Art History at Leningrad University.

- 2 Stratford-upon-Avon

CHARNETZKAYA Militza Sergeevna

Born 1914

Charnetzka first studied architecture. Is now a member of the Union of Artists and has participated in the all-Soviet Union Exhibitions. In the main, her works are landscapes of Leningrad and Moscow, in watercolors and lithographs.

- 3 On the Neva
- 4 Palace Square
- 5 Moika

*Collection Cincinnati Museum of Art
Collection Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen,
Scotland*

DJAGUPOVA Maria Markovya

Born Armavir, Caucasus 1897

Her childhood and youth were spent in her home town; she then moved to Leningrad, where she still lives. She has been a member of the painting section of the Union of Creative Artists since 1938. Since 1934 she has exhibited in Leningrad and many other cities of the Soviet Union. She began to work on lithographs in 1958.

- 6 Asters
Collection Lessing Rosenwald



- 7 Rhododendron in the Greenhouse

*Collection Cincinnati Museum of Art
Collection Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge,
England*

- 8 Gladioli On A Sunny Day

ERMOLAEV Boris Nicolaevich

Born 1903

From 1921 to 1925 he studied at the Technical School of Applied Arts and Industrial Design and since 1928 has been a member of the Community of Artists Society, regularly taking part in its exhibitions.

Since 1932 he has been a member of the Union of Soviet Artists and has participated in many exhibitions, including the national exhibitions. He works in watercolors and lithography and sums up the topics of his work as: "work, life, and rest of town and country."

- 9 Interior
- 10 Girlfriends
- 11 Stadium
- 12 The Visit
- 13 Embroideresses
- 14 In the Field
- 15 Return from the Fields
- 16 Rest
- 17 Reading
- 18 Listening to the Wireless

ELENKRI Yuka Alexandrei

- 19 Tulips
- 20 Flowers
- 21 Roses

ISRAELOVICH Gregory Alexandrovich

Born 1924

A former student at the Academy of Arts in Leningrad.

- 22 Snowy Owl
- 23 The Owl Is Knocking
- 24 Time Is Going

Kaplan/Matiukh/Ermalayev



KAPLAN Anatoli Lvovich

(Tankhum Kaplan)

Born Rogachevo (ByeloRussia) 1902

In 1921 he joined the Academy of Arts in Leningrad, graduated in 1927. He worked until 1937 as a scenic artist and designer and in 1939 was accepted as a member of the Union of Soviet Artists. Each year he participates in exhibitions in Leningrad, Moscow and other cities of the Soviet Union. In 1946 was published his album of lithographs "Landscapes of Leningrad During the Days of the Blockade." This album was purchased by 18 museums and picture galleries in the Soviet Union.

In 1957 his album "The Bewitched Tailor" was published and this, also, was purchased by many Russian museums. He also works in watercolors and tempera, frequently taking Jewish folk-songs as his subject.

- 25 An Old Jew
- 26 Tevia and His Wife Golde
- 27 The Village of Anatovka
*Collection Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
England*
- 28 Perchik Says Goodbye to Gadl
- 29 Golde Prays Kindling the Sabbath Candles
- 30 Aronchik With Mother and Uncle
- 31 Shprinze By the River
Collection Lessing Rosenwald
- 32 Beilke
- 33 Tevia Praying
Collection Lessing Rosenwald
- 34 Policeman
- 35 Pedozor and Beilke
- 36 Tevia and Golde Have a Meal
- 37 Eve

KAPLUN Adrian Vladimirovich

Born Perm 1887

He received his artistic education at the Stroganov School in Moscow and afterwards at the Higher School of Arts of Stiglitz in Petersburg. Kaplun's teachers were the remarkable Russian realist painters Mate, Panov and Savinsky. His

Israelovich/Mordvinova/Pomeranzeva/Yacobson/Latash/Djagupova



works are in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, the Russian State Museum in Leningrad and in many museums of the Soviet Union and abroad.

- 38 Rigu
- 39 Mirenberg
- 40 Talliun

KUKS Minei Ilich

Born 1902

He graduated from the Academy of Arts of Leningrad and has taken part in exhibitions in the Soviet Union and abroad.

- 41 Water Otters

LANIN

- 42 Flowers In Vase

LATASH Alexandra

Born 1909

She studied at and graduated from the Technical School for Applied Arts and Industrial Design in Leningrad and, since 1927, has participated in all Leningrad exhibitions.

- 43 Boy With a Choc-Ice (Eskimo Pie)
- 44 Performance
- 45 Boy In a Little Garden

LUBIMOVA Antonina Vasilevna

Born Province of Penza 1899

She left the Repin Institute in 1930. Since 1934 she has taken part in exhibitions of Leningrad artists and in traveling exhibitions. Several of her works have been purchased by State Museums.

- 46 Leningrad Winter Morning In Town

MASLENIKOVA Irina Nikolaeva

Born Leningrad 1925

In 1955 she graduated from the Repin Institute of the Academy of Arts in Leningrad. Since 1955 she has participated in all Leningrad and Moscow exhibitions, as well as in mobile exhibitions. Since graduating from the Institute



she has worked continuously in the Leningrad lithographic experimental workshop.

- 47 Winter Sports
- 48 Floral in Yellow and Blue
- 49 Purple Floral

MATIUKH Vera
Born 1912

She studied at the Academy of Arts in Kharkov. Since 1939 she has been a member of the Leningrad Union of Artists. Her work consists mostly of lithographs of flowers, youth and sports. She takes part in all exhibitions by Leningrad artists and also in the All-Union exhibitions.

- 50 Girl In Train
- 51 Skiers
- 52 A Girl In A Raincoat
Collection Lauren Bacall
- 53 The Manicure
- 54 Waiting
- 55 Young Girl
- 56 At the Game

MILORADOVICH Ludmilla Ivanovich

Miloradovich graduated from the Moscow Institute of Arts in 1930. Periodically she participates in the Leningrad, and other national exhibitions in the Soviet Union.

- 57 Evening

MORDVINOVA Anevtina Evgeneva
Born 1900

Trained at the Academy of Arts in Leningrad. She is a member of the Union of Soviet Artists and takes part in their exhibitions. Her work consists mainly of landscapes of Leningrad, especially of the Neva.

- 58 In the Estuary of River Strelka

NEMENOVA Gerda Mikhailova

Trained in Leningrad. Her work also includes paintings and drawings.

- 59 Zevatini



- 60 Gogol

Collection Museum of Modern Art, New York

- 61 Korean Dancer
- 62 Two Figures
- 63 Woman

SHENDEROV Alexander Semenovich

Born 1897

A pupil of the artist Dobujinsky

- 64 Ballerina
- 65 The Curtsey
- 66 Putting On A Red Dressing Gown
Collection Museum of Modern Art, New York
Collection Jascha Heifetz
- 67 Ballerina Sitting In Front Of A Mirror

SKOULIARI Michael Nicolaievitch

- 68 Still Life with Carafe
- 69 Still Life
- 70 Flowers
- 71 Vase and Flowers
- 72 Still Life
- 73 Flower and Landscape
- 74 Window and Interior
Collection Lauren Bacall
- 75 Still Life

STEINBERG Sergei Maximilianovich

Born Leningrad 1911

He was the grandchild of Rimsky-Korsakov and the son of the composer and conductor M. O. Steinberg.

Steinberg studied at the Repin Institute at Leningrad's Academy of Arts under Professor Shillingovsky and Bilibin, and from 1940 onwards he regularly took part in all the Leningrad and Moscow exhibitions. He was especially well-known for his landscapes of Leningrad. He died earlier this year from heart disease.

- 76 Leningrad, Moika
Collection Lord Beaverbrook
- 77 Fontanka in Leningrad
Collection Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England

**SUDAKOV Vladimir Mikhailovich**

Born 1912

He is a pupil of Rudakov and has taken part in numerous exhibitions of Leningrad artists, and of all-Union exhibitions. He works mainly in watercolor and lithography.

- 78 Fishing Boats
- 79 In the North

VASNEZOV Yuri Alexeitch

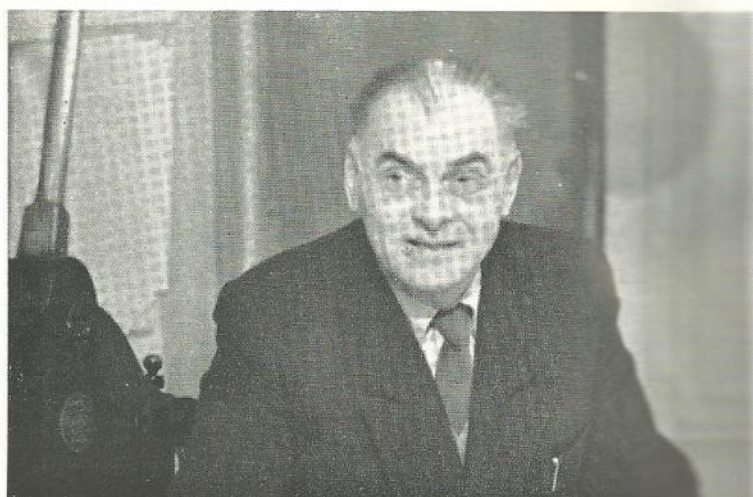
- 80 Girl On Hen
- 81 Flying Horse
- 82 The Frog

VEDERNIKOV Alexander Semenovitch

Born near Nyninogorod in Gorodetz, 1898. The son of a small working-class family, he studied at the Nijninogorod Technical School for artists, then at the Academy of Arts. In 1928 he joined the society of the Circle of Artists. Later on in 1932, he was received into the Leningrad Union of Artists, to which he still belongs.

For more than 10 years, his favorite materials have been lithographic stone and India ink. However, he started as a painter in oils, and a watercolorist, and his struggles there are linked with his first difficulties in a continuing search for the best medium for his work. From his early childhood in the colorful and noisy market-towns on the Volga, he was fascinated by the glazed tiles, carved wooden utensils, painted toys and intricately patterned honey cakes. He was first drawn to painting through his passionate interest in observing the icon-painters, wood-cutters and potters at their work.

- 83 Yellow Flowers
Collection Lessing Rosenwald
- 84 Still Life on a Black Background
- 85 Still Life on a Window with Sailing Boats
Collection Otto Preminger



- 86 Still Life with Berries
Collection Museum of Modern Art, New York
Collection Otto Preminger
Collection Christian Herter
- 87 Still Life with Toy
- 88 Still Life with Deer
Collection Cincinnati Museum of Art
Collection Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, Scotland
- 89 In the Studio
Collection Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England
Collection Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, Scotland
- 90 Ornamental Still Life
Collection Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 91 Still Life with Cockerel
- 92 Nude in an Interior
- 93 Model at the Mirror
- 94 Still Life with Flowers in an Interior
- 95 Interior on the Day of the Jubilee
Collection Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, England
- 96 Still Life on a Red Background
- 97 Jug With Flowers
Collection Lessing Rosenwald
- 98 Grapes with Ashberries
- 99 Still Life with Yellow Background

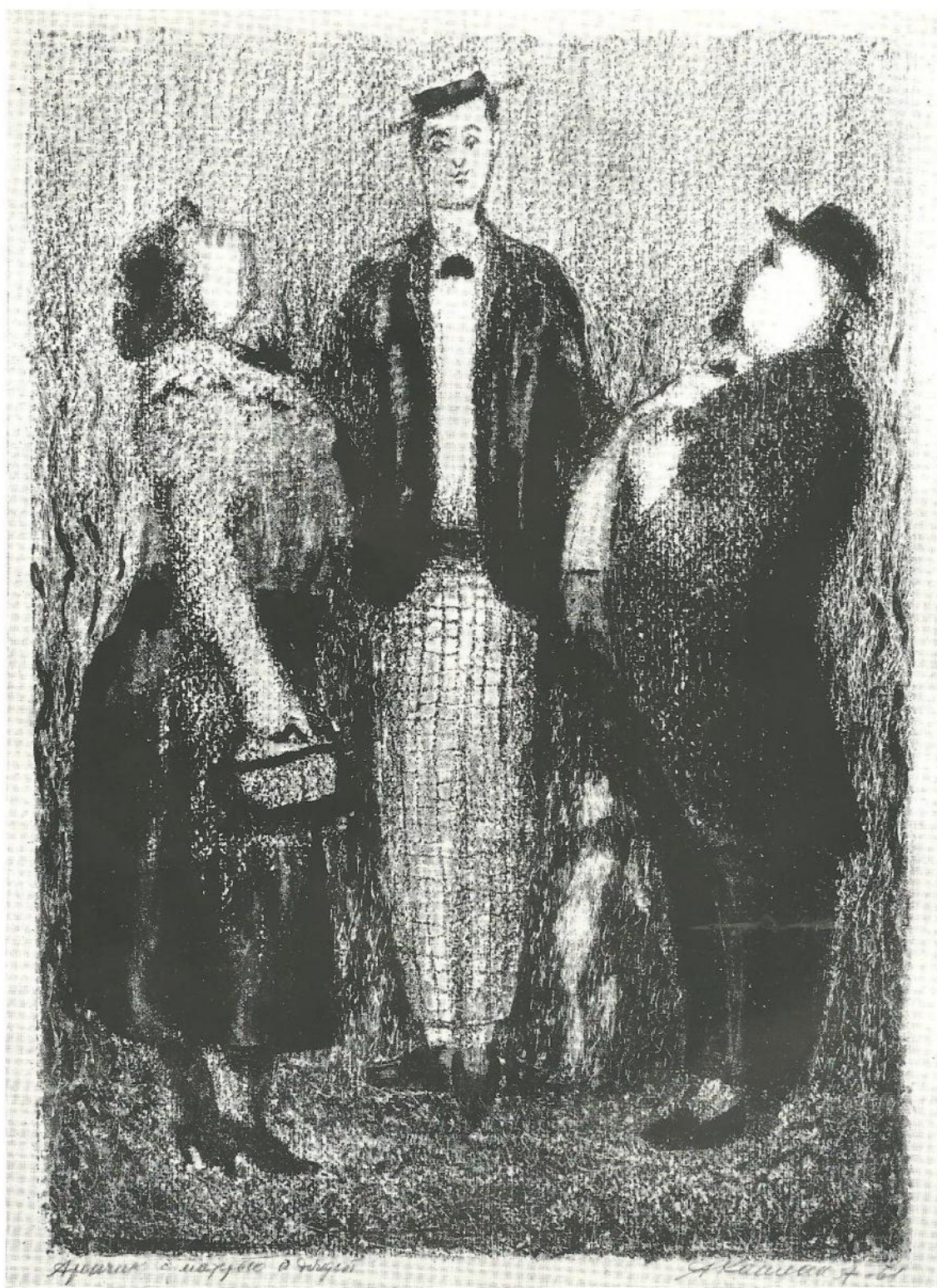
YACOBSON Alexandra Nikolaevna

Born 1903

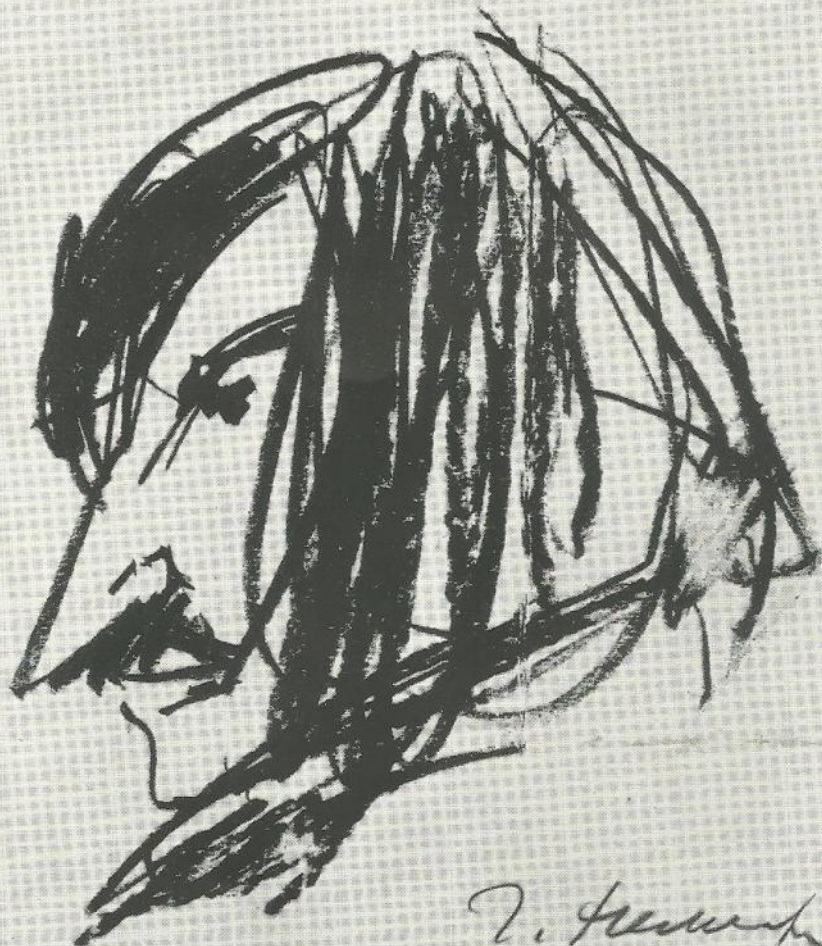
She received her artistic education at the Academy of Arts in Leningrad and was the pupil of Petrova Vodkina. She has taken part in many of the national Union of Artists exhibitions and in other exhibitions within the Soviet Union and abroad.

- 100 Bouquet of Dahlias
Collection Cincinnati Museum of Art
Collection Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, Scotland



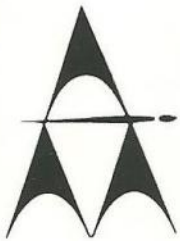






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