Title: ICONOCLSTIC FERVOR:



Sally Hazelet Drummond’s Road to

Abstraction

Subtitle:

Author(s): Hillary Sullivan, Curator

Preface: Hillary Sullivan, Curator

Essay: Lois Dodd

Artist Statement(s): Sally Hazelet Drummond

Book Design: Isabelle Cable

Publisher: Old Stone Press

Imprint: Old Stone Press

Pub Date: 11/19/15

ISBN13: 978-1-938462-21-4 (print)

978-1-938462-22-1 (ebook)

LOC Control Number: 2015917094

Format: soft cover & ebook

Trim Size: 8.5 X 11

Page Count: 72

Carton Qty:

Illustrations: (14) Plates plus photographs & illustrations

Audience: General

Previous Edition ISBN: none

Retail Price: $24.95 US

BISAC Category: ART016010 / Individual artists / Artists’ Books

ART006020 / Collection, Catalogs, Exhibitions / Permanent Collections

ART009000 / Criticism & Theory

**Title Description**

Sally Hazelet Drummond is believed to be the first female graduate of the Hite Art Institute with a masters in painting in 1952. It was during her study at the University of Louisville that she further explored Abstract Expressionism, a style that started only a decade earlier in the 1940s. In 1953 Drummond, a second-generation abstract expressionist, joined the epicenter of the movement as a member of the Tanager Gallery, one of the leading Tenth Street artists’ co-ops. In the midst of figures such as De Kooning, Reinhardt and Rothko, Drummond refined her style into the ­­­­dotted starburst patterns that she continued to develop over the course of her life.

While Drummond has been described in several genres, ranging from neo-pointillism to op-art, her work and the exhibition itself is firmly rooted in abstract expressionism. Drummond herself described the movement as a kind of iconoclastic fervor. While history has remembered Abstract Expressionism as being a definitive style characterized largely by wall sized canvases swabbed with gestural marks of the artists, contemporary writers provide a much larger perspective that typifies the avant-gardism of the movement.

Drummond’s artistic career from her Tanager days to date has been a deepening study into her understanding of abstract expressionist practice. However, as the oeuvre of her work has demonstrated, her explorations into abstraction proffer a different albeit not unfounded view of the art movement. Drummond’s views on spirituality and community serve as a foil to much of the machismo and individualist psychology of the abstract expressionist artists. Additionally, Drummond’s use of easel scale, unrestrained use of color and deliberate art making process offer a reframing of the accepted tenants of abstract expressionism. Drummond’s art and her journey into abstraction is also deserving of the self-same description, an *iconoclastic fervor*.

The exhibition of her art, ranging from the 1940s until 2010, is on display in Gallery X at the Schneider Hall Galleries from November 19th until December 18th, 2015. An accompanying catalogue, *Iconoclastic Fervor: Sally Hazelet Drummond’s Road to Abstraction*, is also available for purchase at Old Stone Press at (502) 693-1506, john@oldstonepress.com

## Title Description (short version)

Sally Hazelet Drummond is believed to be the first female graduate of the Hite Art Institute with a masters in painting in 1952. It was during her study at the University of Louisville that she further explored Abstract Expressionism, a style that started only a decade earlier in the 1940s. In 1953 Drummond, a second-generation abstract expressionist, joined the epicenter of the movement as a member of the Tanager Gallery, one of the leading Tenth Street artists’ co-ops. In the midst of figures such as De Kooning, Reinhardt and Rothko, Drummond refined her style into the ­­­­dotted starburst patterns that she continued to develop over the course of her life. This exhibition illustrates how Abstract Expressionism is an ideology as well as an historical art movement.

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## Author/Curator Bio (Preface)

Hillary Sullivan was born in Louisville, Kentucky. She received her undergraduate degree from Utah State University in 2012 and completed her master’s in Critical and Curatorial Studies from the University of Louisville in 2015. She currently works as an independent museum consultant.

## Essay by:

Lois Dodd was born in Montclair, New Jersey in 1927. From 1945-1948 she attended The Cooper Union in New York. In 1952 she was one of five artists to establish the Tanager Gallery, where she exhibited until 1962. From 1971 to 1992, Dodd taught at Brooklyn College, and has, since 1980, served on the Board of Governors of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. She is an elected member of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and National Academy of Design.

## Artist Bio and Artist Statement(s) by:

Sally Hazelet Drummond was born in 1924 in Evanston, Illinois and now lives outside New York City. Her work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshorn Museum, the Whitney Museum and the Metropolitan Museum, among others. She was a long-time member of the Tanager Gallery. She has received a Fulbright Grant and a Guggenheim fellowship. In 1972, the Corcoran presented a retrospective exhibition of her work curated by Gene Baro.

**Education**

Rollins College, 1942-44

Columbia University, B.S. 1948

Institute of Design, Chicago 1950

University of Louisville, M.A. 1952

**Grants**

Fulbright, Venice 1952-1953

Guggenheim Fellowship, Lacoste 1967-68

**One-Person Exhibitions**

2015 Hite Art Institute, Louisville, KY

2005 Alexandre Gallery, New York, NY

2000 Mitchell Algus Gallery, New York, NY

1990 Louisville Visual Arts Association, Louisville, KY

1989 The Cornell Fine Arts Center, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL

1984 Artists Space, sponsored by the Mark Rothko Foundation, New York, NY

1981 The Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT

1978 Fischbach Gallery, New York, NY

1972 Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. *Retrospective*

1968 Fischbach Gallery, New York, NY

1962 Green Gallery, New York, NY

1960 Tanager Gallery, New York, NY

1957 Tanager Gallery, New York, NY

1952 Hadley Gallery, Louisville, KY

**Select Group Exhibitions**

2007 *Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary Art*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, Jimmy Ernst Award in Art, New York, NY

*Optic Nerve- Perceptual Art from the 1960s*, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH

2001 The Armory Show, New York, NY

2000 National Academy of Design, 175th Annual Exhibition, New York, NY

1995 Artist’s Choice – Elizabeth Murray, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

American Academy of Arts and Letters, Invitational, New York, NY

1994 5 Points Gallery, East Chatham, NY

1987 Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, Owensboro, KY

National Arts Club, New York, NY

1984 *Underknown*, curated by Henry Geldzahler, P.S. 1, New York, NY

1983 *Abstract Paintings of the 1960s*, P.S. 1, New York, NY

1982 Speicher and Hassam Fund Exhibition, American Academy of Arts and Letters

1977 *Point*, Philadelphia College of Art, Philadelphia, PA

*Connecticut Artists*, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT

*10th Street Days: The Co-ops of the 1950s*, Pleiades Gallery, New York, NY

1975 *A Change of View*, Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT

1974 *Focus-Women’s Work: American Art*, Philadelphia, PA

## Publicity

**Hite Art Institute/University of Louisville**

<http://events.louisville.edu/event/ma_thesis_exhibition_iconoclastic_fervor_sally_hazelet_drummonds_road_to_abstraction#.VkS8K4S_ei8>

## Awards

(coming)

## Author Appearances

(to be announced)

## Distribution

Ingram and Baker & Taylor, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

and other Internet outlets.

## Media Contact

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## Marketing Materials

High-resolution images are available at oldstonepress.com

## Websites/Social Media Links

[www.oldstonepress.com](http://www.oldstonepress.com)

**Hite Art Institute/University of Louisville**

<http://events.louisville.edu/event/ma_thesis_exhibition_iconoclastic_fervor_sally_hazelet_drummonds_road_to_abstraction#.VkS8K4S_ei8>

Alexandre Gallery: <http://www.alexandregallery.com/sally-hazelet-drummond>

Sally Hazelet Drummond of Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sallyhazeletdrummond/>

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