

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

LEO KATZ

1968

Dec 30.
 Born 1887 at Roznau, formerly Austria, (now Czechoslovakia). Studied at the Fine Arts Academies in Vienna and Munich (1905-10). Traveled extensively (France, Belgium, Holland, England, Spain, Italy, Greece, etc., also U.S., Mexico and Guatemala). Studied old and modern masters as well as the art, religion and philosophies of the Orient and Pre-Columbian America. Painted portraits, landscapes, animals, abstractions and murals. Research in Esthetics, Creative Psychology, Religion; especially the relationship between old and recent art trends and the common basis of modern art, modern science and modern life. Recent research on Astro-mythological psychology and on Dimensional Dynamics. Arrived in the U.S. in 1921, invited by the late Frank A. Vanderlip, President of National City Bank. American citizen since 1930.

PAINTINGS AND PRINTS: Paintings exhibited in this country at the Ehrich, Anderson, Seligman, Montross, A.A.A. and Jacobi Galleries in New York; the National Museum (Smithsonian Institute), Washington, D.C.; Museum of Fine Arts in Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Norfolk, Va.; Atlanta, Ga., etc.

Work represented in the print collections of the Metropolitan Museum; Museum of Modern Art; Brooklyn Museum; the New York Public Library; Library of Congress, Washington; Baltimore Museum of Art; Howard University; Boston Museum of Fine Arts; the Wiggins Collection of the Boston Public Library; the Museum of Norfolk, Va.; the Albertina, Vienna; Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris; the Whitney Museum, N.Y.; Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem; High Museum, Atlanta, Ga.

Private Collections: Burton Emmett, Dr. Bela Schick, W.L. Laurence, Leonhard Katz (Woburn, Mass.), Lotte Jacobi (Hillsboro, N.H.), Mr. and Mrs. T.V. Fisher (Chicago, Ill.), Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Peltz (Warwick, Va.), Robert Bunzl (Atlanta, Ga.), Dr. A.E. Manley (Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.), Mrs. Mary Nikas (Atlanta, Ga.), Dr. Robert Scharff (Atlanta, Ga.), Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Tidwell (New York, N.Y.).

MURALS: Tobitschau Castle in Moravia, (now Czechoslovakia), 1913-15: a series of murals in tempera. The Johns-Manville Building at the Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933-34; an 1800 square foot mural, "Give Us This Day Our Daily Light", executed on 114 panels of asbestos cement. Dartmouth College, 1932: assisted Jose Clemente Orozco in his work on the frescoes. Frank Wiggins Trade School, Los Angeles, 1935-36: designed and executed a series of murals dealing with the History of American Culture and Arts, culminating in the prediction of the "Crossroad" idea. Garrison, New York, at the country home of Dr. Bela Schick: symbolic mural, "Metamorphosis 1942".

PRIZES: 1938: for Lithograph, "Is This The Meaning Of Life" (1937), at the "Print Society" at Long Beach, Calif. 1946: Pennell Purchase Prize, Library of Congress, Print Department, for etching-engraving "Pegasus-1945". Both prints included in Paris Exhibition of American Graphic Art, sponsored by U.S. Embassy and its Cultural Attache, Fall 1951.

WRITINGS: Author of three volumes on modern art, "Understanding Modern Art", written and printed exclusively for the members of the Delphian Society (see Museum of Modern Art Library). Contributor to the "Art of Japan" in the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences (published by Columbia University, N.Y.), "Methods of Teaching the Fine Arts" (Un. North Carolina), "Art and Artists of Today", and other magazines (Magazines of Art). Article on "Art and Archaeology and the Aztec Figure of Coatlicue" in Magazine of Art, Washington, April, 1945.

WRITINGS: 1938: Chapter on "Composition in Photography" in Miniature Camera Work, published by Morgan and Lester, N.Y. 1942: Four chapters in the Encyclopedia of Photography (Complete Photographer): "Dimensions", "Evolution of Visual Consciousness", "Photographic Analysis" and "Social and Cultural Aspects of Photography", published by the National Educational Alliance, New York. Radio talks on Art Education and Problems of Modern Art.

TEACHING: Active teaching at the Chouinard Art School and the Art Center School of Los Angeles. Cooper Union Art School (Philosophy of Art and Photography). 1943-46, taught at Brooklyn College (History of Art, Basic Design, Advanced Painting, Color, Etching Engraving, Lithography and Photography). Member of staff of the College of Fine Arts, New York University until 1934.

Courses: "Living American Art" at the Metropolitan Museum (1926-32) was the first University course on that subject in this country. Courses on "Modern Art" also given at the Metropolitan Museum, N.Y. "History of Ancient and Modern Art" at the Courtis Institute, Philadelphia; the College of the City of New York; the New School of Social Research.

Lecture Groups: Museum of Modern Art "An American Place (Stieglitz) and other galleries.

Guest Lecturer: Columbia University (Teachers' College); the Brooklyn Museum; Museum in Newark; the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh; U.C.L.A. and U.S.C. at Los Angeles; Institute of Contemporary Art, Washington, D.C.; Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences; Yale University Summer School; Wesleyan University; and other universities, schools and clubs. All together audience of 400,000 people, not counting occasional radio talks.

Artist in Residence and Director of Art Department at Hampton Institute, Va.; Artist in Residence and Professor at Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.

Director of Atelier 17, summer 1946, 1950-53, 1954. (Stanley William Hayter's Workshop for Modern Creative Engraving and Etching in New York).

MEMBERSHIP: Member of Stanley William Hayter's Atelier 17, N.Y.; former member of National Society of Mural Painters, the Mural Artists Guild; the Architects-Sculptors and Painters Collaborative, the Southern Print Makers Society; Associate member of the Architectural League, N.Y.; Member of College Art Association, N.Y.; Member of Society of American Etchers, Engravers, Lithographers and Woodcutters; Member of the Artists Equity Association; Honorary membership, 1947-53, James River Camera Club, Newport News, Va. Chairman of the Art Department, Hampton Institute, Oct. 1946-Aug. 1953. Trustee and Vice-President of Virginia Art Alliance, 1949-50. President of Virginia Art Alliance, 1951-52.

Elaborate write-up about career appeared in "Who's Who In The South and Southwest" (A.M. Marquis Company, p. 512).

- 1943-46: Taught at Brooklyn College (History of Art, Basic Design, Advanced Painting, Color, Etching, Engraving, Lithography and Photography).
- 1946: Director of Hayter's Atelier 17, N.Y.
- 1949: Engraving "Pegasus" was reproduced in the book on "American Prize Prints of the 20th Century" by Albert Reese, published by the American Artist Group, Inc., N.Y., p. 100.
- 1950: Engraving "Year One A.B." was exhibited by the Public Library of New York in the exhibition "50 Years of European and American Prints".
- The Metropolitan Museum included the engraving "Dream Symbols" in its exhibition of "20th Century Art".
- 1950-54: Summer. Director of Atelier 17, N.Y.
- 1951: July. Portfolio of 14 prints (lithographs, etchings and engravings) acquired for Fine Arts Museum of Boston.
- 1952: Engraving "Pegasus 1945" selected for permanent collection of the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris.
Engraving-etching, "Ophiuchus", acquired by Lessing Rosenwald Collection for the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.
Lithograph "Homeless" selected for the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem, Israel.
- 1953: Retired from Hampton Institute, Va.
- 1955: Metropolitan Museum, N.Y. acquires "Struthiomimus" for Print Collection.
Museum of Modern Art, N.Y. " " " " "
Museum of Norfolk (Va.) " " " " "
- 1955-56: John H. Whitney Foundation, Professor of Art and Artists in Residence at Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga.
Exhibition of "Creative Photography" (descriptive and non-objective photography by Katz students in New York and Hampton Institute) at Spelman College.
- 1956: Fine Arts Museum of Boston acquires "Struthiomimus" for Print Collection.
"Vortex Power" (oil painting) acquired by Dr. and Mrs. Bela Schick (N.Y.).
One Man Show of lithographs, etchings, engravings and dry burr at Atlanta Art Association Museum. "Struthiomimus", "Pegasus 1945", and "Homeless" prints acquired at that time.
- 1956-57: Invited by Spelman College to return in same position.
- 1957: "Creative Photography" Exhibition at Atlanta Art Association (from Spelman).
Retired from Spelman College.
Experimental lecture course for a group of business executives on "Creative Thinking".
- 1958: Exhibition and Reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Fisher, Atlanta.
Prints acquired by Jewish Community Center of Atlanta.
Print "Year One A.B." acquired for Atlanta Art Association by Mr. Richard Schwab.

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- 1959-60: "Pegasus" included in a U.S. traveling exhibition of "Graphic Art in the U.S.A." to Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Australia and the Near East.
- 1960: Six prints (lithographs, engravings, etchings, dry burr) in permanent collection of the Albertina Museum, Vienna, Austria.
- 1960: Special Events Loan Exhibition of prints made at the Atelier 17, in New York, from the collection of Leo Katz, including 5 originals by Leo Katz, at the Art Festival of Atlanta.
- 1960-61: Fellowship at the MacDowell Colony (Peterborough, N.H.), working on a new book (Sept. 15-Dec. 15). Stayed to Jan. 16, 1961 (finished 400 p.)
- 1961: Again, Fellowship at MacDowell Colony, N.H. (Sept. 15-Dec. 15, 1961) Portrait work in New York (Mr. and Mrs. William Beer). Engraving "Falcon", acquired by Print Department, Brooklyn Museum, N.Y. Article for Symposium on "Boredom" at University of Ga., Athens, Ga. Move from Atlanta to studio at 54 W. 74th St., New York 23, N.Y. (Jan.)
- 1961-62: Work on book.
- 1963: "Cumulo-Nimbus Mythology", painting, oil on canvas. Started "Ether Tunnel" and "Starwomb", painting, oil on canvas.
- 1964: Lectured at College in Little Rock, Arkansas and at Georgia Tech (Atlanta). Moved to Hotel Chelsea, 222 W. 23 St., N.Y. (Oct. 1).
- 1965: Retrospective Exhibition of Graphic work at the Lotte Jacobi Art Center in Hillsboro, N.H. (Aug. - Sept.) Still working on book. Lecture at Spelman College, Atlanta, Ga. (Oct.) Exhibition of "Creative Photography" at Spelman College (New Art Building). Several symposia with private groups (Atlanta, Ga.)
- 1967: Whitney Museum acquired "Spiral Galaxy" painting and "Year One A.B.", engraving-etching, and "Dragon", lithograph, prints. Lecture and Symposium beginning the "Workshop For Advanced Studies", George Eastman House, Rochester, N.Y.
- 1968: Work on a book on "Basic Principles and New Approaches to Photography and Photodramatic Media", sponsored by the Max Eastman House, Rochester, New York. Finished book "Quest For Life....Coincidences" (950 pages), Mar. 15, Miami Beach, Fla.
- Nov. 1 1968 Moved to the Andrew Freedman Home, 1125 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N.Y. 10452.

LEO KATZ

ARTIST, MURAL PAINTER, ENGRAVER,
ETCHER, PHOTOGRAPHER, AUTHOR,
EDUCATOR, LECTURER, PHILOSOPHER.