

DAPHNIS

CONTEMPORARY ARTS GALLERY

MARCH 24-APRIL 11

Preview Monday Evening, March 24, 8:30-11

106 EAST 57th STREET, NEW YORK



IT IS eight and a half years since Nassos Daphnis last exhibited at the Contemporary Arts. He has spent many of those years, without lifting his brush, as a soldier in the American forces, surviving dirt, cold, despair, and bullets in the war-beaten mountains of Italy. Were we not told this, we could deduce it from a series of canvases he has painted since that time, canvases dominated by the remnants of shell-torn trees in a rutted waste of loneliness. They have a grim force and menace which is unforgettable; but they are a far cry from the lyrical world which he had previously dreamt about.

There is hardly one of them, nevertheless, which in its far distances or on its horizon, has failed to keep a promise of renewed life and ultimate happiness. Once, in his youthful years, Daphnis painted a vision of heaven and hell; but in those days his purgatory was as charming as his paradise, the devils a toy army. A new definition of good and evil has now been found, and in returning to a world of greater hope and faith he seizes the beauty of the natural world—especially its plant-life whose forms he has always deeply loved—with a thicker complex of emotions. His self-taught art, once picked out with one finger, its tunes like those heard on a sweet but lonely hillside from a shepherd's flute, are now polyphonic. Planning, close organization, and definition enter the pictures; and with those controls comes an abstraction which is increasing. But he will never, one rejoices to see, desert the natural world of opening and awakening life which have always made his pictures of it as mysterious and luminous as water from a brook or as field flowers.

GORDON WASHBURN

OILS

1. THE RAVENS
2. SOARING RELIC
3. THE WAVE
4. BEACH IMAGE
5. NEW DAY
6. SEA ECHOES
7. LATE SUMMER
8. THE ENTWINEMENT
9. FLOATING APPARITION
10. THE ONLOOKERS
11. AFTER THE STORM
12. SUSPENSION
13. THE OFFERING
14. RITUAL

WATER COLORS

1. IN THE ABYSS
2. CEREMONY
3. TEMPTATION
4. COMPANION OF SERENITY
5. LIGHT OF THE ZODIAC
6. WASTE LAND ECHOES
7. SWAMP LIFE
8. MORNING DEW
9. MIST