



THEODOROS STAMOS

STAMOS

Less than two decades ago a group of young painters working in and around New York became the spokesmen for what has since become a new language of the arts. This idiom, while assimilating the traditions of Europe and the Far East, now speaks without a foreign accent.

The key to this new tongue is freedom, not license. Freedom to put aside the convention-covered habits of seeing which tie the artist to painting as representation. Freedom to explore the inner self and to translate abstract thought, or emotion, directly into visual concept. Freedom to experiment with new media, new techniques. Freedom to make new demands on the viewing public, so that they too recognize that the paramount role of the eye is to act not as a mirror, but as a portal to the sensitive and imaginative recesses of the mind.

This ideology then, is not one for the surface skimmers. Freedom on the one hand requires greater responsibility on the other. Furthermore, the men who make up this group are far from being a compact phalanx. Their only common denominators being the immense scale upon which they work, and the drive toward abstraction with certain echoes of existentialism. Greater understanding can come only from examining carefully and minutely the unique contribution of each individual of the school.

Theodoros Stamos is one of the earliest and most accomplished of these, our domestic heroes. He speaks through an astonishingly powerful palette. His inspiration derives from nature, not as an end in itself, but as a springboard for transcending her most complex realities. Within Stamos are fused the components of greatness: the technique to master his media, the profundity of mind to express universalities, and the sincerity and dedication to his art that forever separate it from decoration.

Marie Swartz

STAMOS

Born 1922

Studied at the American Art School

Work in the collections of:

Cincinnati Museum Association
Museum of Modern Art
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Whitney Museum of American Art
Addison Gallery of American Art
Albright Art Gallery
Baltimore Museum of Art
Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro
and many others

Represented by The Andre Emmerich Gallery,
New York, who, with other public and private
collections, has made this exhibition possible.

THE MARION KOOGLER McNAY ART INSTITUTE
6000 NORTH NEW BRAUNFELS • SAN ANTONIO

21 FEBRUARY — 15 MARCH



"As to the contents of this museum, I readily subscribe to the Fifth Freedom, that is the exploitation of art which I cannot understand. And I shall fight to the death for the right of the avant garde to exhibit organic architecture, abstract painting, stabiles, mobiles and symbolism which just can't mean what I think it means . . . If I cannot honestly say I comprehend all that goes on here, I can admire hospitality to new ideas, for it is only the open mind which insures progress."

ROBERT MOSES, head of the City and State of New York park systems and construction coordinator for the City of New York, in an address delivered at the opening ceremonies of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1959.