

Contact:  
Ariane Doud  
Matter Communications  
978-499-9250 x239  
Addison@matternow.com

**ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART'S *AMERICAN VANGUARDS*  
EXHIBITION BREAKS NEW GROUND**

***American Vanguard*s: Graham, Davis, Gorky, de Kooning, and Their Circle, 1927–1942** catalogue available now; traveling exhibition begins its journey January 29 at the Neuberger Museum of Art

December 6, 2011 (Andover, MA) ...A critical reconsideration shedding new light on the New York School, Abstract Expressionism, and the vitality of American modernism between the two world wars, *American Vanguard*s: Graham, Davis, Gorky, de Kooning, and Their Circle, 1927-1942 provides a long overdue examination of an important and little-studied period in American art. Organized by the Addison Gallery of American Art and curated by notable scholars William C. Agee, Irving Sandler, and Karen Wilkin, the exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue co-published by the Addison and Yale University Press.

Opening on January 29, 2012 and running through April 28 at the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York the exhibition will be presented from June 9 – August 19 at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas. Its final presentation will be from September 21 – December 31, 2012, at the Addison.

In the 1920s through 1940s, the enigmatic and charismatic John Graham (1886–1961) and his circle of New York artists, which included Stuart Davis, Arshile Gorky, and Willem de Kooning, helped redefine ideas of what painting and sculpture could be. They, along with others in Graham's orbit, such as Jackson Pollock and David Smith, played a critical role in developing and defining American modernism. *American Vanguard*s showcases more than sixty works of art from this vital period that demonstrate the inter-connections, common sources, and shared stimuli among the members of Graham's circle.

As Brian Allen has stated in the forward to the *American Vanguard* catalogue, available now from Yale University Press:

“The Addison has a long history of collecting and exhibiting early modernist art. Stuart Davis's Red Cart and David Smith's Structure of Arches have held places of pride in our galleries for many years. Our exhibition program has been enriched by presentations of early abstraction of some of America's early- and mid-twentieth-century masters, exhibitions both drawn from our own collection and on loan. Thus when our close colleague Karen Wilkin and her co-curators William C. Agee and Irving Sandler

approached our curatorial team with the idea of a show of the work of John Graham, Stuart Davis, Arshile Gorky, and Willem de Kooning, we were immediately enthusiastic.

Much has been written and many exhibitions organized about the most significant artists in Graham's circle, yet surprisingly, despite Graham's close links with so many of these artists in the evolution of American abstraction, he remains little known. This long-overdue exhibition rediscovers Graham and puts his art and charismatic influence in the context of his time. By bringing together works by the New York artists of Graham's circle, made during the years of their association with him, the curators provide visible testimony to dialogue and cross-fertilization as well as common sources and stimuli between these artists. This assembly of paintings and sculpture evidences the creative energy of New York painting and sculpture during this crucial period and fosters greater understanding of the associations formed by the leading artists of this formidable generation."

The Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Monday. Admission to all exhibitions and events is free. The Addison Gallery also offers free education programs for teachers and groups. For more information, call 978-749-4015, visit the website at [www.addisongallery.org](http://www.addisongallery.org), and follow us on Facebook and @AddisonArt on Twitter.

## #

#### **About the Addison Gallery of American Art**

Devoted exclusively to American Art, the mission of the Addison Gallery of American Art is to acquire, preserve, interpret and exhibit works of art for the education and enjoyment of all. Opened in 1931, the Gallery has one of the most important collections of American art in the country that includes more than 16,000 works by prominent American artists such as George Bellows, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keeffe and Jackson Pollock, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank and many more. The Addison Gallery, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at [www.addisongallery.org](http://www.addisongallery.org) and follow us on Facebook and @AddisonArt on Twitter.

#### **About American Vanguard**

*American Vanguard: Graham, Davis, Gorky, de Kooning, and Their Circle, 1927–1942* is organized by the Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.

Curated by scholars William C. Agee, Irving Sandler, and Karen Wilkin, the exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue co-published by the Addison and Yale University Press.

Generous support for this exhibition and publication was provided by the Henry Luce Foundation and The Dedalus Foundation, Inc., and by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.