

D E M U T H

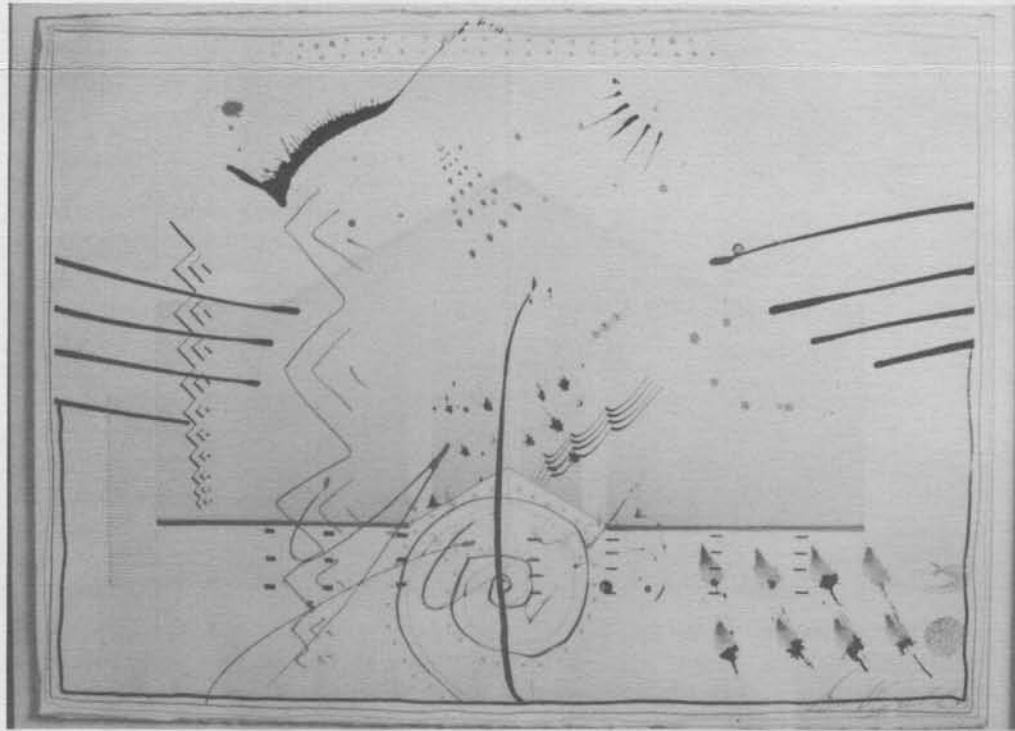
# DIALOGUE



Vol. 12 No. 4

THE DEMUTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

April 1995



David Brumbach (1948-1992) *Mountain Series*, 1983. Mixed media on paper.

## Our Premium Art Auction Is April 5

The Second Premium Art Auction for the Demuth Foundation will take place on Wednesday, April 5. A preview exhibition of the art offered will be held at the Foundation beginning with an opening reception on Sunday, March 19 from 1 to 4 PM and continuing to the art of the auction on Wednesday, April 5.

Those of you who attended the first Premium Art Auction last year will remember the excitement of the evening and the wide range and quality of the art offered. This year's event promises more of the same. The re-

sponse of artists and collectors submitting works for sale has been overwhelming. The volume offered exceeds all expectations and the selection qualifies the auction truly as a Premium Art Auction.

On auction day we will have a final preview at the Foundation, beginning at 5:30 PM and continuing till 6:45 PM. Admission will be \$10 and includes a casual buffet and a bidders number. The auction will follow, starting at 7 PM sharp and ending about 9:30 PM. The event will be held at the Fondersmith Auditorium of

Trinity Lutheran Church.

The auction will follow the pattern successfully set last year, benefiting the Demuth Foundation on a shared basis with both the sellers and buyers of art. Sellers will set a reserve (minimum) price, and buyers, will pay a 10% premium to the Foundation. As in last year's auction, some sellers again voluntarily are offering a larger share of the proceeds to the Foundation, in some cases as much as 100%.

Continued on page 2

# Premium Art Auction

Continued from page 1

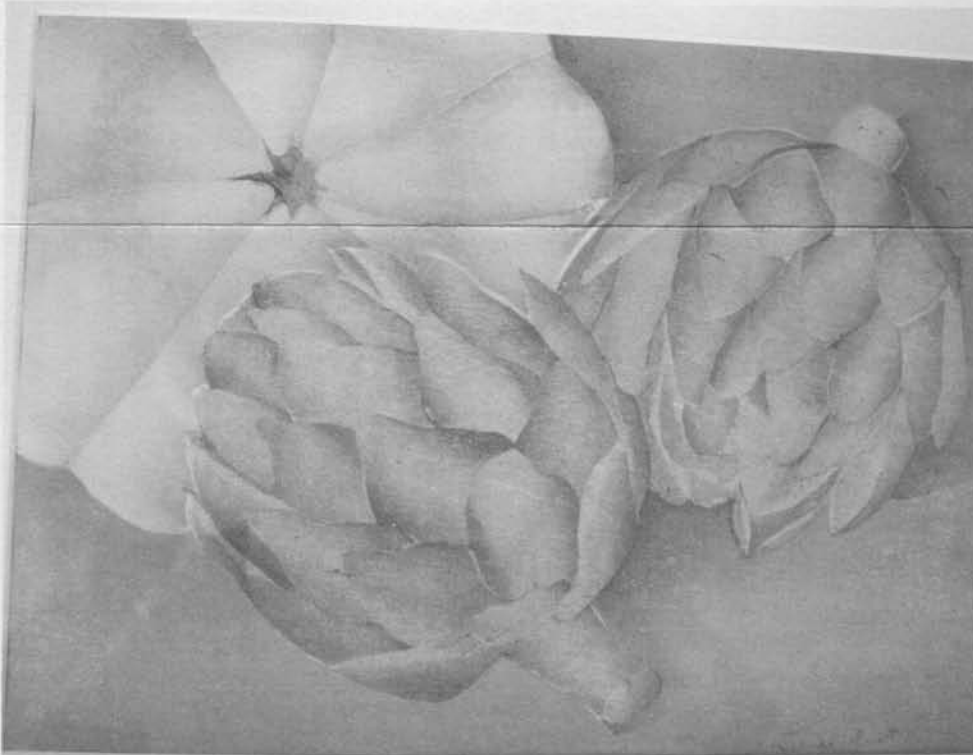
Absentee bids may be arranged prior to the auction day by contacting or visiting the Foundation.

Don't miss this opportunity to see a wide ranging collection of works of

artist of the past and the present. Here is the chance to enhance your collection and purchase the work you have longed for, while supporting the Demuth Foundation.

At press time the following artists were represented in our auction: Mi-

chael Abel, Fred Albright, C.W. Anderson, Russell Bamford, Mary Bell, David Brumbach, Kathleen Cantin, Victor Capece, C.X. Carlson, Matt chambers, Honore Daumier, William Early, Leonore Fini, Arlene Fisher, Hubert FitzGerald, Ted Fitzkee, Eileen France, Milt Friedly, Sandra Fruitman, Bruce Fry, Jeff Geib, Ellen F. Grove, Tom Hachtman, Joann Hensel, Richard G. Hess, Kristin Hill, Kenneth Hoak, Richard Huck, J.T. Hughes, Peter Hunt, Robert Hustead, Icart, Constantine Kermes, Kathleen King, Kathe Kollwitz, Edith Lestz, Margaret Lestz, Henry Libhart, Robert Locher, S. Long, Lisa Madenspacher, Charles Martin, David Moss, Don Munz, Conrad Nelson, Robert Nelson, Nancy Nevin, David Porter, Luigi Rist, Fred Rodger, Greg Rohrer, Barry Root, Kimberly Root, Lou Schellenberg, Doug Schlemm, Michael Schofield, peter Sculthorpe, Barbara Shade, Judy Smith, Scott Spangler, Albert Swayhoeover, Rufino Tamayo, Florence Taylor, Carl Van Vechten, John De Vleighter, Deborah Watson, Christine Welch, Barbara Whipple, J. Fred Witmer, Ed Worteck, Dale Ziegler.



Scallops, c1939-42. Woodcut by Luigi Rist



## DEMUTH FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name exactly as you wish to be listed.)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renewal

Membership contributions are tax-deductible in accordance with current tax law.

Please mail to DEMUTH FOUNDATION, 114 E. King St., Lancaster, PA 17602

Phone (717) 299-9940

Memberships are renewable one year from enrollment.

### Categories of Membership

- Sponsor \$1000
- Sustaining \$500
- Supporting \$250
- Business \$100
- Contributing \$100
- Friend \$50
- Household/Associate \$25
- Individual \$15

My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please charge my credit card for the following amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please bill my  MasterCard  Visa

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# Through The Lens of Carl Van Vechten

by Bruce Kellner

An exhibition of approximately fifty photographs of Carl Van Vechten will run at the Demuth Foundation for six weeks, beginning May 28th. It has been arranged from a private collection and form the Carl Van Vechten Memorial Collection of Afro-American Arts and Letters in Ganser Library at Millersville University.

The exhibition will coincide with a similar one which has been touring the country through the auspices of the Hallmark Photographic Collection for the past two years. It will open at the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., on June 16th.

In 1932, after a thirty-year career as an influential music critic, successful novelist, and advocate of what has come to be called the Harlem Renaissance, Carl Van Vechten turned his attention to portrait photography. Until the end of his life, at the age of 84 in 1964, he devoted his energies to documenting many of the century's luminaries, primarily figures connected with literature, dance, and theater, but also representatives from the worlds of sports, opera, politics, and fine arts.

By the end of the "splendid drunken twenties," as he liked to call his hey-day, he had made enough money from his popular novels, and inherited a good deal as well, to be

able to afford to quit writing. As a novelist of the decadent Jazz Age, his career was pretty well finished anyway with the onslaught of the Depression. Fortuitously, just at that time, the Mexican caricaturist Miguel Covarrubias introduced him to the wonders of the new Leica camera, just then being imported from Germany for the first time.

Van Vechten began by photographing friends, like Charles Demuth and H.L. Mencken; over 30 years later, he concluded his archive of over 15,000 photographs with opera divas, like Marilyn Horne and Leontyne Price. In between these figures paraded a remarkable catalog of subjects.

Since photography was only a hobby for Van Vechten, he never photographed anybody he didn't want to; he never took any fees for his work; he gave the prints away to the subjects and to his friends. Eventually several major collections emerged: in the New York Public Library, the Museum of modern Art, the Lincoln Center Library of the Performing Arts, the Museum of the City of New York, and the Schomburg Center for Black Studies, and the Hammond Museum, all in New York; the Gibbes Museum in Charleston; the Philadelphia Museum of Art (the largest archive single, of over 13,000 prints); the Lilly Library in Chicago; the Library of Congress; and several universities, including Brandeis, Fisk, Howard, Iowa, Millersville, new Mexico, and Yale.

Most notable, perhaps, is Van Vechten's collection of African American subjects, made at a time when little attention was paid to black arts and letters in this country. Name-dropping is inevitable, but in most cases the subjects sat before Van Vechten's Leica before their own careers had been established, and a mere baker's dozen form the hundreds of African Americans he photographed is merely representative: Marian Anderson, Pearl Bailey, James Baldwin, Ralph Bunche, Diahann Carroll, Sammy Davis, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, Mahalia Jackson, Jacob Lawrence,

Ethel Waters, and Richard Wright.

Van Vechten's archive of photographs of dances is nearly as impressive. He did not take up photography early enough to capture on film many dancers whose careers in America he was first to champion, in his reviews of their performances — Pavlova, Nijinsky, and Isadora Duncan, for example — but his roster is considerable, as another baker's dozen suggests: Diana Adams, Alvin Ailey, Alexandra Danilova, Anton Dolin, Andrew Eglevsky, Martha Graham, Melissa Hayden, Nora Kaye, Hugh Laing, Arthur Mitchell, Francisco Moncion, Anthony Tudo, and Violette Verdy.

If his catalog of artists is smaller, its own baker's dozen is no less impressive: Alexander Calder, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dali, Raoul Dufy, Marcel Duchamp, Marsden Hartley, Frieda Kahlo, Marie Laurencin, Henri Matisse, Joan Miro, Isamu Noguchi, Georgia O'Keefe, and Rufino Tamayo.

Carl Van Vechten's photographs are easy enough to identify: silvery profiles or steady stares, multi-patterned backgrounds to suggest a plethora of design and color, dramatic chiaroscuro experiments in his early portraits, an almost resolute documentary approach in his later ones, and — in almost every case — several different poses of the subject. Many of them have been wide reproduced, and those of Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, Eugene O'Neill, Bessie Smith, and Gertrude Stein are such immediately recognizable images that they have become, indeed, icons in American arts and letters.



We invite you to join the Demuth Foundation and become a part of our many cultural events, while learning more about the life, times and work of Charles Demuth (1883-1935).



#### Members' benefits:

- Advance notice of exhibits, and special events.
- Subscription to "Demuth Dialogue."
- 10% discount on Museum Shop purchases.

# CALENDAR

<b>March 19-April 5</b>	Preview Exhibit: 2nd Premium Art Auction
<b>April 5</b>	Final Auction Preview and Refreshments: 5:30-6:45 p.m. Art Auction: 7-9:30 p.m.
<b>April 16</b>	CLOSED: Easter Sunday
<b>April 23-May 21</b>	Jerome Hershey: Recent Paintings, 2nd floor gallery
<b>April 29-30</b>	Also, Art Walk Weekend ONLY: Sat: 10-5; Sun. 12-5 Charles Demuth original art: Foundation collection
<b>May 28-June 18</b>	Carl Van Vechten Photography Exhibit
<b>May 31</b>	Annual Meeting: 7 p.m.; place to be announced Bruce Kellner: "Carl Van Vechten"
<b>June 9</b>	Garden Party, Conestoga House gardens
<b>June 10 &amp; 11</b>	Garden Tour; Sat. 10-5; Sun. 11-6
<b>June 25-July 30</b>	"Wild!" Flowers; an invitational art exhibit: a Summer Art Festival event
<b>July 4</b>	CLOSED: Independence Day
<b>Aug. 6-Sept. 3</b>	Charles Swisher: Recent Paintings; 2nd floor gallery
<b>Sept. 10-Oct. 8</b>	Michelle Taylor: Recent Paintings; 2nd floor gallery
<b>October 1</b>	Also, Art Sunday ONLY: 12-5 Charles Demuth original art: Foundation collection

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pa. Department of state by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-09099. Registration does not imply endorsement.

*The DEMUTH DIALOGUE is published four times a year by the Demuth Foundation.*

*We welcome comments and ideas for future issues.*

*Editor: Robert LeMin (717) 394-6895*

*Correspondents: Carol Morgan 299-9940; Bruce Kellner*



Printed on Recycled Paper

## Garden Tour Volunteers Needed

Our annual garden tour gets more and more popular every year! And every year many dedicated volunteers generously offer time and energy, helping make the event a delight for visitors and a smooth running, profitable fund-raiser for the museum. Truly, without all our wonderful volunteers the garden tour could never happen!

Of course, all those who have helped in the past will be invited to participate again but many hands make easy work. We will be happy to find the perfect spot for you, perhaps a few hours at the plant sale, the silent auction table, or greeting visitors at one of the lovely garden sites. If you can help this year please call the museum at 299-9940 and let us know you want to be part of the team!

## 1949 Chambers Gas Stove for Sale

"Antique" gas kitchen range, from Demuth house at 116 E. King St. In working condition. Special features: color is pale gray enamel, stainless steel top with a large rectangular griddle plate and three burners; deep well cooker; oven. Some wear, overall condition is very good. An ideal piece for those wishing to restore a kitchen to period or country look it has fantastic character, \$500; buyer must move. Show by appointment: call 299-9940.



DEMUTH  
FOUNDATION  
114 East King Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 670  
Lancaster, PA

### HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 - 4:00

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00

Closed Mondays

Free Admission

Telephone

717-299-9940

Art Auction Is April 5th!