

# Waddington Galleries

PRESS RELEASE

## Milton Avery Late Work Landscapes and Seascapes 1951-1963

Exhibition dates: 12 September - 6 October 2001

Exhibition hours: Monday – Friday 10am – 5.30pm Saturday 10.30am - 1.30pm

*'...Avery was a great poet-inventor who had invented sonorities never seen nor heard before.  
From these we have learned much and will learn more for a long time to come'*

Mark Rothko

Waddington Galleries is pleased to present an exhibition of late work by the American artist Milton Avery. The landscapes and seascapes, dating from 1951 to 1963, are painted in oil on canvas, board or paper.

Many of Avery's late paintings are relatively abstract although there is always a basis in nature. In his pared down compositions Avery uses subtle hues of colour to describe space and volume. As Hans Hoffman said 'Avery was one of the first to understand colour as a creative means'. He opened up new formal possibilities to American painting that influenced a younger group of artists including Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman and Adolph Gottlieb.

Milton Avery was born in 1885, in Altmar, New York. From 1901 to 1924 Avery worked in Hartford, Connecticut including jobs as an assembler, file clerk and construction worker. During this period he studied life-drawing at evening classes at the Connecticut League of Art Students, Hartford and later the School of the Art Society of Hartford. In 1925 he moved to New York City and in 1926 he married the artist Sally Michel. From this time forward he was able to devote himself to painting full-time and continued to do so despite periods of ill health, until his death in 1965.

Avery's first public exhibition was in a group show at the Annex Gallery, Hartford in 1915. His first solo exhibition as held in New York at the Valentine Gallery in 1935. In 1944, Avery had his first solo museum exhibition at the Phillips Memorial Gallery, Washington DC. His first retrospective was at the Durand-Ruel Galleries, New York in 1947. Major retrospective exhibitions include The Baltimore Museum of Art, 1952 and The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, in both 1960 and 1982.

A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies this exhibition

For further information or photographs, please contact Elisabeth Rackham

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