

ALEXANDRE GALLERY

Will Barnet
RECENT ABSTRACT PAINTINGS
May 6 through June 18, 2010

Will Barnet has made uniquely significant contributions to American art as a painter, printmaker and teacher. Barnet's work reflects his ongoing contributions to vital currents of American art, from the social realism of the 1930s, to abstractions in the 1940s and 1950s, followed by a renewed concern for figuration from the mid-1960s onwards. Although the range of Barnet's accomplishments is vast, his entire body of work is unified by his devotion to painting and drawing within the classical principles of order, stability, harmony and grace.

As a teacher at the Arts Students League in the late 1940s, Barnet exerted his profound influence upon and communion with a group of artists now known as the Indian Space Painters. Barnet's highly original recent work builds upon the Native American-inspired integrations of organic and geometric pictograph forms within a flat, seamless space. The new works in this exhibition were begun in 2003. Barnet re-developed ideas that he never completed during his shift from abstraction to figurative work in the late 1960s. Barnet's unusual combinations of subtly painted, imaginary figurative imagery are enhanced by his new vision of color and special feeling, which exemplify his ongoing capacity for reinventions and new perspectives as he nears 100.

Gail Stavitsky, Chief Curator
Montclair Art Museum