

# ALEXANDRE

## Edith Schloss



**Edith Schloss**

***Blue Italian Skies Above***

**April 30 – June 11**

**Opening Reception Saturday, April 30 from 3 – 5 pm**

**A conversation and reading on Edith Schloss,**

**Saturday, June 11, 3 pm**

**Alexandre**

**291 Grand Street, New York**

*Schloss seems to make room in her pictures for all kinds of enjoyments, novel ways of looking at familiar objects and an ever-present view of the sea.*

— James R. Mellow, *The New York Times*, March 25, 1972

Alexandre Gallery is pleased to present *Edith Schloss: Blue Italian Skies Above*, the gallery's first exhibition of works by the artist (1919–2011) since the gallery announced its exclusive representation of Schloss's estate. Examining Schloss's work from the 1960s and 70s, this exhibition presents a collection of never-before-seen works, many of which were produced during the artist's summers overlooking the bay of La Spezia, Italy. *Blue Italian Skies Above* will be on view from April 30 through June 11, and will be accompanied by a catalogue with new scholarship by Jason Andrew.

Included among a minority of women artists in the Abstract Expressionism movement and in the New York School of the 1950s and 60s, Schloss was a bold—and at times brash—presence in the art world. Her work, which spans painting, assemblage, collage, watercolor, and drawing, embraces the intimate, the primitive, and the profound. Her playful still life paintings are often set in the foreground against views out of open windows onto the Mediterranean Sea, celebrating everyday wonders with a delight in pure color and child-like curiosity—yet resolute in representational form. These works, clear manifestations of her budding friendship with Giorgio Morandi at the time, feature groupings of bottles and collected objects, on which Schloss writes: "I look at them and the weather before me and try to have clear ideas about it all and the world, and to put it down in the simplest color and line...Abstract? Figurative? Semiabstract? All art is a fusion of the real outside, and that which is inside us."

Born in Germany, Schloss immigrated to New York City via London in 1942, where she became an observant member of the Abstract Expressionist movement and part of the thriving community of artists and intellectuals including artists Elaine and Willem de Kooning, Jack Tworikov, and Larry Rivers; composer John Cage; and poets John Ashbery, Frank O'Hara, and John Schuyler. Eventually settling in Rome, Schloss was a noted transatlantic correspondent of art criticism and continued to write and paint until she died in 2011 at the age of 92. In 2021, Schloss's long-awaited posthumous memoir, *The Loft Generation: From the de Koonings to Twombly; Portraits and Sketches, 1942–2011*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux and included in *New York Times*' Top Books of 2021, deemed a "glowing jewel of a book."

"I am pleased to celebrate the announcement of this representation and exhibition," shares Jacob Burckhardt, Estate of Edith Schloss. "Alexandre Gallery has long advocated

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for the likes of Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, and Helen Torr. Edith's life and work will now be aligned with these legacies and recognized as essential in the course of American Modernism."

### **About Edith Schloss**

Edith Schloss was born in 1919 in Offenbach, Germany, and immigrated to New York City during World War II. In 1962 she moved to Italy, where she lived and worked until she died in 2011. She studied at Shrewsbury Technical College, Shropshire, UK (1940), Boston School of Practical Arts, Boston, MA (1941), Art Students League, New York (with Harry Sternberg, Will Barnet and Morris Kantor) (1942-46), and the New School of Social Research, New York (1948).

She actively exhibited at galleries throughout her lifetime, including Ashby Gallery, New York (1947), Workshop Gallery, New York (1959), Tanager Gallery, New York (1960), Galleria Aleph, Rome (1964), Galleria Il Segno, Rome (1968, 1974), Green Mountain Gallery, New York (1970, 1972, 1974), Ingber Gallery, New York (1974, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989), Galleria Il Gabbiano, La Spezia (1983, 1986), Galleria Giulia Arte Contemporanea, Rome (2008, 2009). In 2015, the first posthumous retrospective in New York was mounted at Sundaram Tagore Gallery, curated by Jason Andrew. Selected works from the artist's Rignalla Series were exhibited at the Meredith Ward Fine Art in 2018. Select institutional survey exhibitions include Klingspor-Museum, Offenbach, Germany (1990), The Keats-Shelley House, Rome (1993), Il Museo del Louvre, Rome (1997), St. Stephen's School, Rome (2000), and Centro Arte Moderna e Contemporanea della Spezia (CAMEC) (2013).

Schloss's work can be found in prominent private collections in New York, London, Paris, Berlin, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Sydney, Rome, Milan, Ferrara and La Spezia. Her work is represented in the public collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Keats-Shelley House, Rome; the Hessisches Landesmuseum, Wiesbaden; and the Offenbacher Stadtmuseum, Offenbach, Germany, to name a few. Her work has been reviewed by *New York Times*, *Art in America*, *ARTNews*, *Flash Art*, and *Hyperallergic*, among others.

### **About Alexandre**

Founded in 2001, Alexandre Gallery represents and exhibits contemporary American artists and specializes in works by early 20th century American artists, with a focus on the Stieglitz Group. Represented artists include Lois Dodd, Neil Welliver, Stephen Westfall, Pat Adams, Tom Uttech, Hyman Bloom and Loren MacIver. After two decades on Manhattan's 57th Street, Alexandre relocated to the Lower East Side in Fall 2021. The gallery publishes catalogues and participates in leading art fairs, and also maintains a townhouse space on East 73rd Street for its secondary market dealings, which focuses on first generation American modernists and the Stieglitz Group.

Image: Edith Schloss, *Spring Green*, 1967, oil on canvas, 27 5/8 x 23 5/8 inches

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