

ALEXANDRE GALLERY

November 7, 2019

Loren MacIver: Poetic Vision

November 9 - December 21, 2019

Opening Reception Thursday, November 14 from 5:30 - 7 pm



Loren MacIver, *Porte Bonheur*, 1980, oil on canvas, 21 3/4 x 18 inches

The gallery is pleased to present the exhibition *Loren MacIver: Poetic Vision*, a survey of fourteen paintings and selected drawings from the 1930s to 80s that reveals Loren MacIver's (American, 1909 – 1998) unique sensibility to observe and capture the poetic spirit of the everyday objects and environments that engaged and inspired her.

From her West Village home and studio on Perry Street to the extended time she spent in Paris in the 1960s, MacIver looked to her everyday surroundings for inspiration. Subjects included subway lights, votive candles, a clawfoot tub in a window, flowers, trees, studio interiors and the landscape. Her style has been described as a lyrical semi-abstract based on observation and infused with light, softness and mystery – where oil paint is handled with the discretion of pastel and everyday life is transmuted into the emblematic.

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On the occasion of her participation in the Museum of Modern Art's groundbreaking show, *Fourteen Americans* (1946), MacIver, whose paintings were the first by a woman to enter the museum's permanent collection, said of her own work:

Quite simple things can lead to discovery. This is what I would like to do with painting: starting with simple things, to lead the eye by various manipulations of colors, objects and tensions toward a transformation and a reward. An ashcan suggests the phoenix; its relics begin a new life, like a tree in spring. Votive lights, flickering and vanishing, become symbols of constancy.

More recently, William Lieberman, the legendary former Curator of Twentieth Century Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, which acquired nine paintings by MacIver in 1992, wrote of her work:

In our harsh age of anxiety and despair, the lyric art of Loren MacIver shimmers with enchantment. Her observation distills the spiritual from the ordinary, and she expands the familiar into vivid patterns that constantly surprise. Color is pleasure and often joy. Overstatement is alien to MacIver's eloquence, and as an artist she fits no convenient category. She shares with us the clarity of her personal vision, and its essentials combine a poet's eye with a painter's craft. She discovers magic in simple truth, and we are richer and therefore greatly in her debt.

MacIver's paintings are included in most major American museum collection including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. From 1940 to 1980, MacIver was represented by the Pierre Matisse Gallery, where she was the only woman and American in that gallery's stable. In 1962, she represented the United States in the XXXI Venice Biennale. Since her death in 1998, her estate has been represented by Alexandre Fine Art Inc.

Alexandre Gallery represents and exhibits contemporary and American artists and specializes in works of the early 20th century American Modernists with particular focus on the Stieglitz Group. Alexandre Fine Art Inc. was established in 1996 and is located at 724 Fifth Avenue at 57th Street in New York.

For further information and images, please contact the gallery at 212-755-2828
or at inquiries@alexandregallery.com