



Anna Walinska's Self Portrait Becomes Part of The Jewish Museum's Collection On the 60th Anniversary of Her First Solo Show at the Museum

Intrepid artist and art-world influencer Anna Walinska debuted twenty-five years of work in her first Solo show at the Jewish Museum in 1957

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Anna Walinska's Self Portrait (1936) has been given to The Jewish Museum in New York by her niece, Rosina Rubin. The recent donation commemorates the 60th anniversary of Anna Walinska's first solo show, in which the Museum presented twenty-five years of work in an exhibition on view from September 10 to October 13, 1957. Taking place a few years after Walinska's extended sojourn in Burma, some of the works in the exhibition were influenced by her Jewish heritage and the inspiration of the East.

Self Portrait is an oil on canvas (16 x 20-1/4). In the accompanying brochure, Dr. Stephen Kayser, then the Museum's director, wrote: "This exhibit can be regarded as a visual lesson in abstraction -- a term still vague and of many meanings, but indispensable in the interpretation

of contemporary art... In Anna Walinska's work, color evaporates continuously to give way to a skeleton of essential forms... Her paintings rather pre-suppose color values and stimulate color reflections in the imagination of the onlooker. In this double abstraction, of form and color, a process of spiritualization takes place, analogous to those schools in Far Eastern art which dismiss color to provoke imagination."

"Sixty years ago my aunt had her first solo show at the Jewish Museum. It is my privilege to give this painting to the museum that had such an impact on my aunt's career," explained Rosina Rubin, Walinska's niece and donor of the painting. "I am thrilled to see the Self Portrait going to the home where it belongs."

The painting was first exhibited at the Guild Art Gallery on West 57th Street in New York City, founded and run by Walinska from 1935-1937. A few years ago, it appeared as the cover illustration of *American Jewish History*, a publication of the American Jewish Historical Society, in connection with an article by Andrea Pappas, associate professor of Art History at Santa Clara University.

Born in London and raised in New York City, Anna Walinska left home at the age of 19 to study painting in Paris where she lived around the corner from Gertrude Stein, studied under André Lhote and spent time with Poulenc and Schoenberg at the literal center of the modernism movement.

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About Anna Walinska

Anna Walinska's life and art spans the century of American modernism, paralleling the history of the New York school and the American Jewish experience. Known for her exhilarating joie de vivre, the irrepressible adventuress was born in London in 1906, moved to New York with her family in 1914, and by 1918 (at the young age of 12) had begun her education at the Art Students League.

Walinska created more than 2,000 works on canvas and works on paper over nine decades, with significant influences coming from her extended stays in Paris and Burma. Her body of work also includes several hundred works on the theme of the Holocaust and a series inspired by the 17th century Japanese erotic Shunga prints, which she began at the age of 76. Her work is found in numerous public and private collections in the U.S. and abroad. Since her death in 1997, her work has been showcased in a number of solo and group exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad.

Her work, Walinska wrote, "sought to convey the spirit of a search without boundaries."