

EST. 1870

NEW YORK



PALM BEACH

FINDLAY

**PAINTER
ILLUSTRATOR
VOGUE ART DIRECTOR
SAILOR
WWII SPY
COLLECTOR
PHILANTHROPIST**

SIMEON BRAGUIN

AS THE ARTIST SEES IT

Cover Image Detail:

SB 1998.41, 1994
Acrylic on Canvas
60 x 48 inches
FGc134338



SB 1998.157 • Acrylic/Canvas • 30 x 38 inches • FG©134411



SB 1998.139 • Acrylic/Canvas • 30 x 38 inches • FG©134413

SIMEON BRAGUIN

AS THE ARTIST SEES IT

Simeon Braguin was born in the Ukraine in 1907 amidst the forebodings of war and revolution. When the Russian Revolution began, Simeon was merely ten years old. As supporters of the Czar, he and his family fled the country, immigrating to New York and launching the beginning of Simeon's lifelong love affair with art.

In New York, Braguin was surrounded by ample opportunity to explore and experiment artistically. As a young man, he took art classes at Columbia University, as well as at the Art Students League. There, he was introduced to many influential artists of the time, including Boardman Robinson and William Glackens, with whom he developed special friendships.

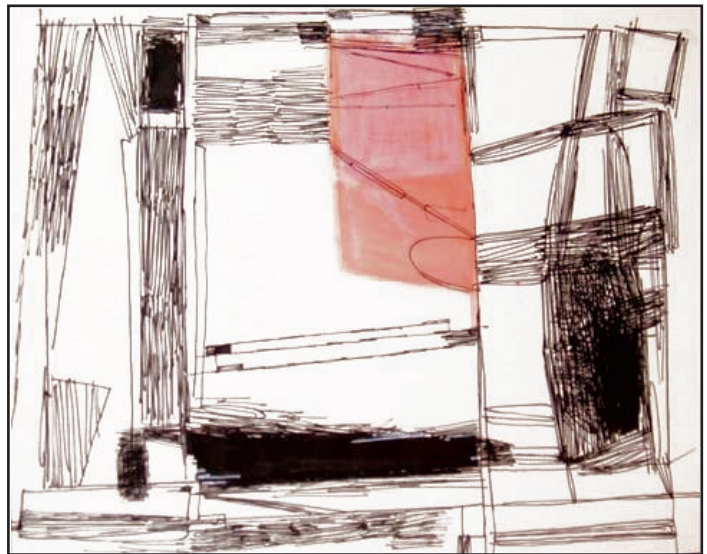
In the early 1930's, Braguin left the world of academia to join Vogue magazine. His first successes at the magazine would be as an illustrator, a position which brought him high visibility in the world of fashion, where his illustrations were reproduced across many other magazines including Mademoiselle and the Saturday Evening Post. His talent and drive lead him to swiftly rise among the ranks of Vogue, and he quickly became the Creative Director of the renowned publication. He would become extremely influential as a part of the magazine, notably for being one of the first people to repeatedly commission works from the then unknown artist, Andy Warhol. His mentorship of Warhol, as well as other artists that ran in that circle, allowed him to become a collector of some of the artists' great works, and over time he slowly built his own collection of art. During this time he also continued to work on his own art as well, having his first solo exhibition of his paintings in 1931, which was shortly followed by many more.

However, his time at Vogue and rising painting career would be shortly interrupted by the outset of World War II. Like his colleagues, Braguin left his job to serve his country, though he took on a more unusual and daring role than they. Due to his unique multilingual skills (he spoke fluent Ukrainian, French, Italian, and English), and his competency with a camera, he was enlisted by the Office of Strategic Services and became a spy. His reconnaissance photographs proved essential to the success of many allied bombing missions, but after successfully completing ten daring missions, Braguin sensed he was tempting fate. Thus, he happily accepted an offer to "retire" with honors, returning to Vogue to continue on as Creative Director, and continue to pursue his own artistic endeavors. He continued to collect and paint, and additionally spent his free time sailing and competing in yacht competitions. In fact, his love of sailing would inspire one of his most well-known painting series, 'The Essex Harbor Series.'

Today, Simeon Braguin is highly regarded as a member of the New York School of painting. His works are unique, combining the playful wire-like lines of Cocteau with the sensuous color shapes of Matisse in a way that makes them incomparable to any other artist of the time. Throughout

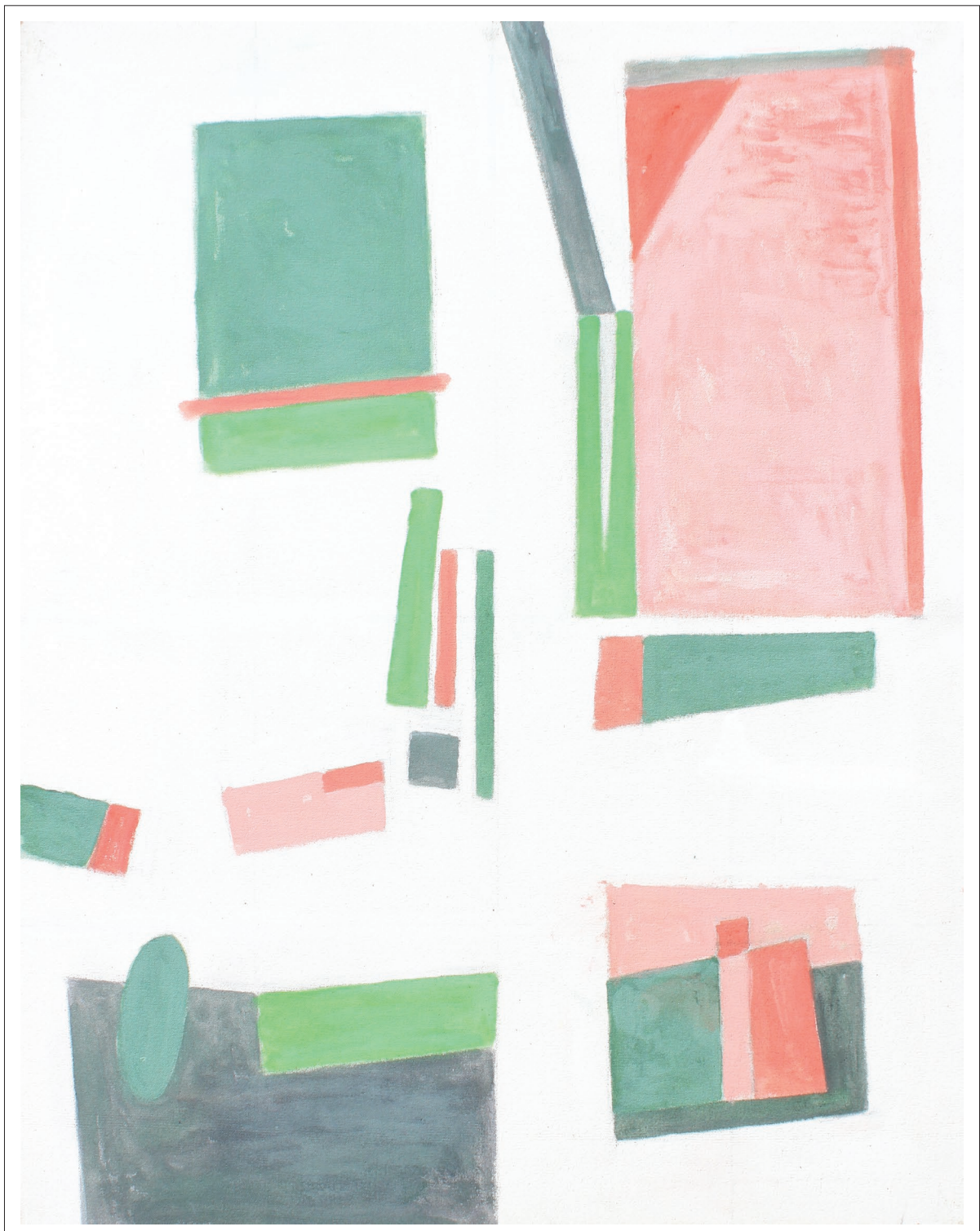


Image courtesy of ©Yale University Art Gallery



02.0523C/382 • Ink Wash • 11 x 14 inches • FG©132506

his career, as a leader in the New York fashion scene, as an illustrator, as a war hero, and as an artist, he quietly produced an enormous body of work, including paintings, drawings, and sculpture. His work has found homes in numerous esteemed collections, including the Yale Art Gallery (where he left most of his estate when he died in 1997, as well as where he donated much of his priceless art collection), the Lyan Allyn Art Museum, and the Twentieth Century Foundation Museum.





SB 1998.94, 1993 • Acrylic/Canvas • 50 x 64 inches • FG©134474



SB 1998.87, 1992 • Acrylic/Canvas • 48 x 60 inches • FG©134426



SB 1998.57, 1981 • Acrylic/Canvas • 68 x 54 inches • FG©134458



SB 1998.240 • Acrylic/Canvas • 34 x 42 inches • FG©132898



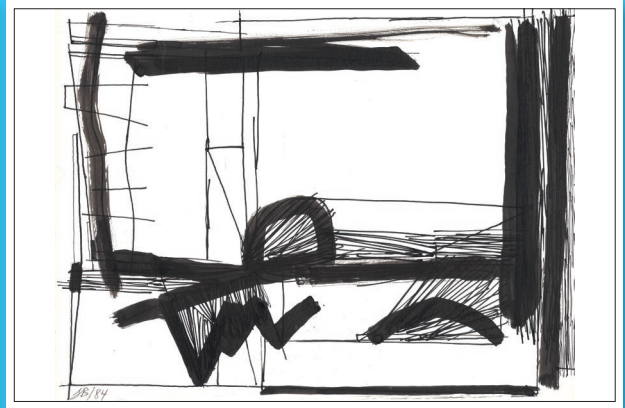
C97 1998.150, 1979 • Acrylic/Canvas • 34 x 30 inches • FG©129353

SIMEON BRAGUIN

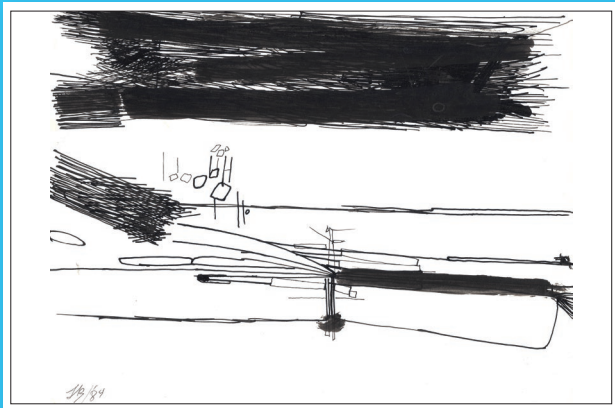
AS THE ARTIST SEES IT



Untitled 338 • Ink on Paper • 8 x 10 Inches • FG©132551



Untitled 332 • Ink on Paper • 8 x 10 Inches • FG©132583



Untitled 334 • Ink on Paper • 8 x 10 Inches • FG©132568



Untitled 340 • Ink on Paper • 8 x 10 Inches • FG©132553



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724 Fifth Avenue, 7th Floor • New York, New York 10019 • 212.421.5390 • newyork@findlayart.com
165 Worth Avenue • Palm Beach, Florida 33480 • 561.655.2090 • palmbeach@findlayart.com

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