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the
Bruce

PRESS RELEASE

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The Bruce Museum Presents: *Connecticut Modern: Art, Design, and the Avant-Garde, 1930-1960*

On view September 23, 2023-January 7, 2024



Charles Sheeler (American, 1883-1965), *On a Connecticut Theme*, 1958, Oil on canvas, 19 1/8 x 29 1/8 in. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Lawrence H. Bloedel Bequest.
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(Greenwich, CT September 21, 2023) On September 23, 2023, the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT will present *Connecticut Modern: Art, Design, and the Avant-Garde, 1930-1960*. This groundbreaking exhibition features exceptional painting and sculpture by renowned artists of the 20th century, who for three decades transformed the State of Connecticut into a true international center of innovation in the arts.

In 1933, sculptor Alexander Calder moved from Paris to Roxbury, Connecticut precipitating a mass migration of transplanted Parisian artists to the Nutmeg State. Soon painter Yves Tanguy and his wife, painter Kay Sage, settled in Woodbury, sculptor David Hare lived near the Calders in Roxbury and Rose and André Masson moved to New Preston. Significant artists of the Magic Realist mode lived and worked in Connecticut including Peter Blume, Pavel Tchelitchew, and Paul Cadmus.

French sculptor Louise Bourgeois bought a place in Easton in 1941 and the great painter Arshile Gorky lived in Roxbury. Pioneering Bauhaus architect Marcel Breuer, as well as Philip Johnson and Elliot Noyes all built innovative houses in New Canaan in the late 1940s. Indeed, for three decades after Calder's arrival, Connecticut was the beating heart of the modern movement in America. *Connecticut Modern: Art, Design and the Avant-Garde, 1930-1960* celebrates this notable period and shines a light on Connecticut's critical role in 20th century art and design.

Connecticut Modern: Art, Design and the Avant-Garde, 1930-1960 includes seminal works, some rarely exhibited, from 20th Century masters including Alexander Calder, Anni and Josef Albers, Helen Frankenthaler, Barbara Chase-Riboud, David Hare, and Walker Evans, among others. The exhibition is curated by Kenneth E. Silver, Professor of Art History, New York University, and sponsored by both Bank of America, Lead Sponsor of the new Bruce, and Lugano Diamonds. Additional support is provided by Hollis Taggart Galleries, NY.

Kenneth Silver notes, "*Connecticut Modern* features an extraordinary selection of modern works of art and design by many of the greatest talents of the 20th century, as well as offering what we believe is a surprising and compelling context for their creation."

"Bank of America is committed to supporting local cultural institutions to help enrich our communities and build greater cultural understanding through the arts," said Bill Tommins, president, Bank of America Southern Connecticut. "As part of our decades-long partnership with the Bruce Museum, we look forward to sharing *Connecticut Modern: Art, Design, and the Avant-Garde, 1930-1960* with museumgoers and highlighting the work of artists who helped solidify Connecticut's role as a leader in the arts."

"Serving our communities and giving back have always been at the heart of Lugano Diamonds. As we establish our presence in Greenwich with our new salon, we are deeply committed to championing the arts and look forward to supporting the Bruce Museum with its world-class exhibitions that continue to inspire," said Moti Ferder, Co-founder and CEO of Lugano Diamonds

Connecticut Modern: Art, Design and the Avant-Garde, 1930-1960 will be on view from September 23, 2023-January 7, 2024.

About the Bruce Museum

Located in Bruce Park overlooking Greenwich Harbor, the Bruce Museum is a community-based, world-class institution that offers a changing array of exceptional exhibitions and educational programs to promote the understanding and appreciation of art, science and the intersections between the two disciplines. Now considered ahead of its time for taking this multidisciplinary approach over a century ago, the Bruce Museum is at the heart of contemporary efforts to bring together art, science, technology and creativity to generate moments of discovery and dialogue.

The first exhibition at the Bruce Museum took place in 1912 and featured works by local artists known as the Greenwich Society of Artists, several of whom were members of the Cos Cob Art Colony. Their works formed the nucleus of the Museum's art holdings and continue to be a strength of the collection, which has expanded to focus on global art from 1850 to the present. Other

strengths include Ancient Chinese sculpture, Native American Art, the Hudson River School, modernist works on paper, and photography. Parallel development of the natural sciences includes strengths in the mineral and avian collections. In all, the community, through its generosity, has built the Museum's varied collections of art and natural science to over 30,000 objects.

In 2019, the Museum, which is accredited by the American Association of Museums, broke ground on a new building which doubles the size of the museum and triples the exhibition spaces. The new Bruce features state-of-the-art exhibition, education, and community spaces, including a changing gallery for art and five new permanent galleries in the William L. Richter Art Wing; a changing gallery for science; a permanent science exhibition, Natural Cycles Shape Our Land; three classrooms in the Cohen Education Wing; and a café, an auditorium, and grand hall. When the outdoor spaces are completed in summer 2024, the New Bruce campus will feature a sculpture-lined, landscaped walking path and inviting spaces for relaxation and contemplation—natural enhancements to Bruce Park and an anchoring connection to Greenwich Avenue.

About Bank of America

Bank of America is one of the world's leading financial institutions, serving individual consumers, small and middle-market businesses and large corporations with a full range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services. The company provides unmatched convenience in the United States, serving approximately 68 million consumer and small business clients with approximately 3,900 retail financial centers, approximately 15,000 ATMs and award-winning digital banking with approximately 56 million verified digital users. Bank of America is a global leader in wealth management, corporate and investment banking and trading across a broad range of asset classes, serving corporations, governments, institutions and individuals around the world. Bank of America offers industry-leading support to approximately 3 million small business households through a suite of innovative, easy-to-use online products and services. The company serves clients through operations across the United States, its territories and more than 35 countries. Bank of America Corporation stock (NYSE: BAC) is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

About Lugano Diamonds

Founded by Moti and Idit Ferder in 2004, Lugano Diamonds is a private international diamond and jewelry company that creates exquisite, one-of-a-kind wearable works of art. With initial inspiration taken from the gem rather than the design, Lugano's expert artisans create each piece of jewelry with meticulous attention to detail and to the highest standard. With a passion for building relationships, community, and philanthropy, Lugano Diamonds believes in being good stewards for both their clients and their communities, a vision realized by supporting various philanthropic efforts, giving back, and making a strong social impact. Lugano Diamonds has salons located in Newport Beach, California; Aspen, Colorado; Palm Beach, Florida; Ocala, Florida; Houston, Texas; Washington, D.C.; and Greenwich, Connecticut. A London salon is set to open in 2024. <https://luganodiamonds.com>