



BRUCE MUSEUM  
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Press Release

# ***Summer with the Averys*** ***[Milton | Sally | March]***

Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut  
May 11 – September 1, 2019



Milton Avery (American, 1885-1965). *Swimmers and Sunbathers*, 1945. Oil on canvas, 28 x 48 1/4 in. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Roy R. Neuberger, 1951 (51.97). © 2019 The Milton Avery Trust / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York. Image copyright © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY.

**GREENWICH, CT, March 28, 2019** – On May 11, 2019, the Bruce Museum will open *Summer with the Averys [Milton | Sally | March]*. Featuring landscapes, seascapes, beach scenes, and figural compositions—as well as rarely seen travel sketchbooks—the exhibition takes an innovative approach to the superb work produced by the Avery family. Along with canonical paintings by Milton Avery, the show offers a unique opportunity to become acquainted with the remarkable art created by Avery’s wife Sally and their daughter March.

In the summer of 1924, while painting in the fishing port and artist’s colony of Gloucester, Massachusetts, Avery met young artist Sally Michel, whom he would marry less than two years later. They would return to Gloucester and elsewhere in New England for summertime visits during the following decade, sometimes with close friends Adolph Gottlieb, Mark Rothko, and Barnett Newman.



After March Avery's birth in 1932, the three Averys ventured forth over the years as far south as Mexico (including six weeks at San Miguel de Allende); west to Laguna Beach, California; and north to Canada's Gaspé Peninsula. In addition to working vacations in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and Woodstock, New York, the Averys were artists-in-residence at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire and Yaddo in upstate New York. In the summer of 1952, the Avery family traveled together to Europe for their first and only time (although Sally and March would subsequently work abroad on many occasions).

As it was for many artists before and since, summertime was a moment of heightened creativity for the Averys. Escaping from their hectic lives in New York, the three artists were inspired by these bucolic and sometimes unfamiliar settings. The art they produced—including oil paintings, watercolors, drawings, and prints—was filled with the splendor of natural phenomena and the sociability of family, friends, and acquaintances; the work ranges from the representational to the nearly abstract.



Sally, Milton, and March Avery in Vermont, 1938. Photograph by Consuelo Kanaga.

*Summer with the Averys [Milton | Sally | March]* will be an opportunity to discover not only what Rothko referred to in 1965 as Avery's "repertoire . . . his wife Sally, his daughter, March, the beaches and mountains where they summered," but to observe the creative interaction of this exceptional family of artists.

"One is struck in this show by how summer for the Averys was a working vacation in the happiest, most gratifying sense," says Peter C. Sutton, The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director of the Bruce Museum. "They were remarkably dedicated and productive, be it in recording the craggy shore of Gloucester, the verdant mountains of New England, or the exotic allure of Mexico. One imagines the satisfaction of finally setting out from the confines of their winter studio to the call of the ocean and the open road. And yet the pleasure of wanderlust never deterred them from keeping abreast of the most current changes in the contemporary art world—lives well lived and images for the ages."

The exhibition is organized by Kenneth E. Silver, Silver Professor of Art History at New York University and Bruce Museum Adjunct Curator of Art, assisted by Stephanie Guyet, Bruce Museum Zvi Grunberg Fellow, 2018-19, and will be accompanied by an audio guide and a scholarly catalogue, featuring full-color illustrations of all the works in the show. Educational programming will include a talk on May 30 with the exhibition curators and Barbara Haskell, a



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curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art and Milton Avery authority. The exhibition closes on September 1, 2019.

The Museum is grateful for exhibition support from the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America, Sotheby's, Sylvia and Leonard Marx, Jr., Bank of America, The Charles M. and Deborah G. Royce Exhibition Fund, the Connecticut Office of the Arts, and a Committee of Honor Co-Chaired by Rebecca A. Gillan, Pamela Lawrence, Susan Mahoney, Heidi Brake Smith, and Jacqueline Adler Walker.

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### **About the Bruce Museum**

The Bruce Museum is located in a park setting just off I-95, exit 3, at 1 Museum Drive in Greenwich, Connecticut. The Museum is also a 5-minute walk from the Metro-North Greenwich Station. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students with ID, and free for members and children less than five years. Individual admission is free on Tuesday. Free on-site parking is available and the Museum is accessible to individuals with disabilities. For additional information, call the Bruce Museum at 203-869-0376 or visit [brucemuseum.org](http://brucemuseum.org).



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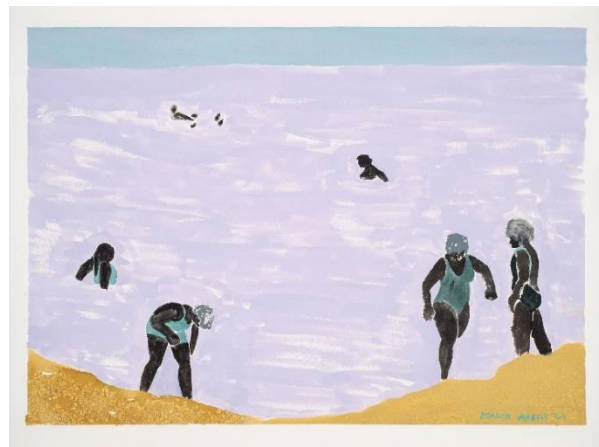
Milton Avery (American, 1885-1965). *Thoughtful Swimmer*, 1943. Watercolor on paper, 30 3/4 x 22 1/2 in. Private Collection, New York. © 2019 The Milton Avery Trust / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.  
Photo: Paul Mutino.



Sally Michel (American, 1902-2003). *Spring*, 1956. Oil on board, 42 x 23 7/8 in. The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, New York. © 2019 The Milton Avery Trust / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.  
Photo: Paul Mutino.



Sally Michel (American, 1902-2003). *Swimming Lesson*, 1987. Watercolor on paper, 18 x 24 in. The Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, New York. © 2019 The Milton Avery Trust / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.  
Photo: Paul Mutino.



March Avery (American, b. 1932). *The Dead Sea*, 2009. Watercolor and gouache on paper, 22 x 30 in. Collection of the artist.  
Photo: Paul Mutino

To review a selection of additional images, please contact Scott Smith, Director of Marketing and Communications, [ssmith@brucemuseum.org](mailto:ssmith@brucemuseum.org) or 203-413-6537.