

Sullivan Goss

AN AMERICAN GALLERY

Judith Rothschild (1921-1993) was an American abstract artist known for her dynamic compositions of geometric shapes and vibrant colors. Born in New York City, she graduated from Wellesley College before studying at the Arts Students League with Reginald Marsh, at William Stanley Hayter's Atelier 17, and with Hans Hofmann and Karl Knaths.

Rothschild's artistic journey was marked by experimentation and evolution. In the 1940s, she was associated with the Jane Street Group, which included artists like Leland Bell, Nell Blaine, and Larry Rivers.

Her early works often featured biomorphic forms and gestural brushwork, reflecting the influence of Abstract Expressionism. However, she gradually shifted towards a more geometric and hard-edged style, incorporating collage elements and exploring the interplay of color, line, and form. Her work was most influenced by Mondrian and Cubism and later Matisse, whose cutouts influenced her departure into her reliefs beginning in the early 70's. Rothschild was a member and later president of the American Abstract Artists Association, was an active participant in the groundbreaking "Forum 49" exhibition and was an early member of the Long Point Gallery cooperative in Provincetown with Robert Motherwell.

Starting in 1948, and through most of the 50s, Rothschild spent most of her time in the relative isolation of the Monterey peninsula in California. Here she hoped to further develop her personal aesthetics away from the cacophony of New York City.

Throughout her career, Rothschild's work was exhibited in numerous solo and group shows both in the United States and internationally. She had solo exhibitions at prestigious galleries such as Knoedler & Company, the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, and the Von der Heydt-Museum in Wuppertal, Germany. In 1998, The Met held a retrospective of her work, which subsequently traveled to the Phillips Collection, and SFMoMa.

She was a trustee of the American Federation of Arts and served as a guest artist at the Pratt Institute and Rhode Island School of Design. Her art is also included in the collections of major museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Centre Popidou, Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, Tate Modern, the Art Institute of Chicago, LACMA, SFMOMA, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

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