

A large, abstract, black and white collage artwork by Sophie Calle. The composition is dense and layered, featuring various geometric shapes, patterns, and textures. A prominent white rectangular shape is positioned in the center, surrounded by dark, angular forms and lighter, textured areas. The overall effect is one of complex, overlapping planes and sharp contrasts. The artist's signature 'Sophie Calle 1995' is visible in the bottom left corner.

A large, abstract, black and white collage artwork by Sophie Calle. The composition is a dense, layered arrangement of various geometric shapes, patterns, and textures. A prominent white rectangular shape is positioned in the center, surrounded by darker, more complex forms. The overall effect is one of a complex, multi-dimensional space. The artwork is signed 'Sophie Calle 1995' in the bottom left corner.

A large, abstract, black and white collage artwork by Sophie Calle. The composition is dense and layered, featuring various geometric shapes, patterns, and textures. A prominent white rectangular shape is positioned in the center, surrounded by dark, angular forms and lighter, textured areas. The overall effect is one of complex, overlapping planes and sharp contrasts. The artist's signature 'Sophie Calle 1995' is visible in the bottom left corner.

A large, abstract, black and white collage artwork by Sophie Calle. The composition is dense and layered, featuring various geometric shapes, patterns, and textures. A prominent white rectangular shape is positioned in the center, surrounded by dark, angular forms and lighter, textured areas. The overall effect is one of complex, overlapping planes and sharp contrasts. The artist's signature 'Sophie Calle 1995' is visible in the bottom left corner.

Born in Siberia in 1908, Esphyr Slobodkina's childhood was spent experiencing both feast and famine. During the period of political turmoil following the Russian Revolution, Slobodkina fled with her family to Vladivostok and then to Harbin, Manchuria. In 1928, she joined her brother Ronya in New York and the following year entered the National Academy of Design. Although she was unenthusiastic about the curriculum, the government required that she attend school and she remained at the Academy until 1933. It was fortunate that she did; through a fellow student, she met the artist Ilya Bolotowsky, whom she married in 1933.

By the mid 1940s, Slobodkina had matured as an artist. Albert Gallatin, an influential American collector, owned two of her paintings and she was invited to exhibit in the ground breaking *Eight by Eight* exhibition of American abstract art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 1945.



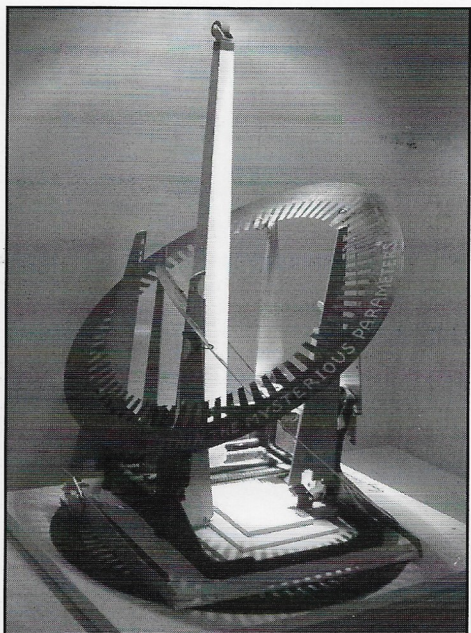
Influenced by abstractionist principles which grew popular in the years following the First World War, Esphyr Slobodkina became a founding member of the American Abstract Artists group and a fellow of the Federation of Modern Artists and Sculptors in the 1930s. She served the AAA as vice-president and treasurer from 1960 to 1962 and as president from 1963 to 1965. As a sculptor, painter and illustrator she was honored with several solo exhibitions.

Esphyr Slobodkina used this same enthusiasm in writing and illustrating children's books, including her most famous, *Caps for Sale*. She centered much of her later work around the premise that "color creates mood."

Making art and writing books continuously until her passing in 2002, Esphyr Slobodkina left a legacy of personal and artistic triumph.

THE FIRST MRS. JAMES T. FARREL 1933

Collection Hillwood Art Museum ES.97.206



**WITHIN THE MYSTERIOUS PARAMETERS
OF PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

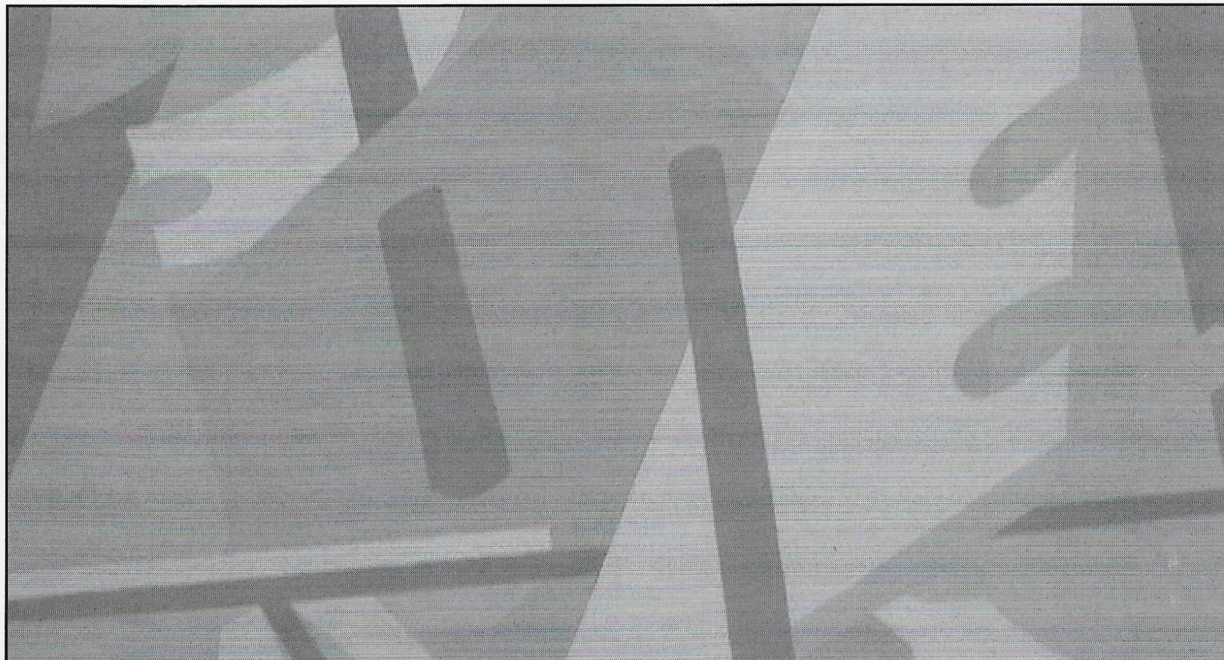
1988

ES.97.246

Collection Hillwood Art Museum

CHRONOLOGY

- 1908** Born in Chelyabinsk, Siberia. Youngest of five children born to Solomon and Itta Slobodkin.
- 1920** Mother and daughters Esphyr and Tamara move to Harbin, Manchuria.
- 1928** Immigrated to New York, joining brother Ronya. Enrolls in National Academy of Design.
- 1933** Marries fellow student and tutor, Ilya Bolotowsky. They divorce in 1938.
- 1934** Joins Artists' Union and attends the Yaddo artists' colony in New York.
- 1937** Exhibits in first American Abstract Artists show as a founding member.
- 1938** Employed by the W.P.A. as a muralist. First solo exhibition at the New School for Social Research.
- 1940** Publishes her most famous children's book *Caps for Sale*.
- 1943** Participates in *Exhibition of 31 Women, Art of this Century*.
- 1945** Included in exhibition *Eight by Eight: American Abstract Art Since 1940*.
- 1953** Whitney Museum of American Art acquires *Composition with White Ovals*. One person show at John Heller gallery.
- 54**
- 1958** Resident at the MacDowell Colony.
- 1979** Solo exhibition at the Hollywood Florida Art Museum.
- 1980** Retrospective at Sid Deutsch Gallery.
- 1985** Metropolitan Museum of Art acquires painting titled *The Pot Bellied Stove*.
- 1987** Included in the St. Louis Museum of Art group exhibition *The Ebsworth Collection: American Modernism, 1911- 1947*.
- 1988** Publishes *A Portable Library of Slobodkina Children's Books*.
- 1990** Included in the National Museum of Art traveling exhibition, *The Patricia and Philip Frost Collection: American Abstraction 1930 - 1945*.
- 1991** Included in the Worcester Museum of Art exhibition, *The Second Wave: American Abstraction of the 1930s and 1940s, Selections from the Penny and Elton Yasuna Collection*.
- 2002** Passes away in New York at the age of 94.



Detail: **PALE MONDRIAN** C. 1950

Collection Hillwood Art Museum ES.94.224

HILLWOOD ART MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES

In conjunction with the exhibition, Dr. Gail Stavitsky, Chief Curator of the Montclair Art Museum and co-author of ***The Life and Art of Esphyr Slobodkina*** (1992, Tufts University Press), will present a free lecture on Slobodkina's life and artwork.

The lecture will take place at Hillwood Art Museum on Thursday, March 20th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This lecture is supported in part by the John P. McGrath Fund of Long Island University.

HILLWOOD ART MUSEUM

C.W. POST CAMPUS/LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
720 NORTHERN BLVD., BROOKVILLE, NY 11548
PHONE: 516.299.4073

E-MAIL: museum@cwpost.liu.edu

www.liu.edu/museum



GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY
GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY
GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY
GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY GUIDE GALLERY

MARCH 3 - APRIL 12, 2003

**ESPHYR SLOBODKINA:
ABSTRACTIONS**

*Hillwood Art Museum invites you to attend the
Opening Reception
Thursday March 6, 5 - 8 PM*

HILLWOOD ART MUSEUM

C.W. Post Campus • Long Island University
720 Northern Blvd.
Brookville, New York 11548-1300

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Long Island University

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARCH 20, 7 - 8 PM

Dr. Gail Stavitsky, Chief Curator at the Montclair Art Museum in New Jersey, will speak on the subject of the artist Esphyr Slobodkina and her relationship to the New York abstract art movement of the 1930s.

APRIL 10, 7:00 PM

Helen A. Harrison, Director of the Pollock-Krasner House and Art Reviewer for *The New York Times*, will present a reading of her recently published book ***Hamptons Bohemia: Two Centuries of Artists and Writers on the Beach.***