

# Linear Thinking

THROUGH JULY 1, Rosenberg & Co. in New York will present the exhibition “Marguerite Louppe: Diagramming Space,” the French artist’s first solo show in the U.S. The 30 paintings and works on paper that are on view document Louppe’s synthesis of Cubism and the Purism of Le Corbusier and Amédée Ozenfant in an art that boldly delineates modernist space while evoking a sense of intimacy in the viewer.

Louppe was born in 1902 in Commercy, in eastern France, and moved to Paris shortly thereafter. She studied art at the Académie Julian, where her schoolmates included Marcel Duchamp, Jean Dubuffet, and Louise Bourgeois. Another was Maurice Brianchon, who became her husband. Louppe also studied at the Académie André Lhote, where Cubism

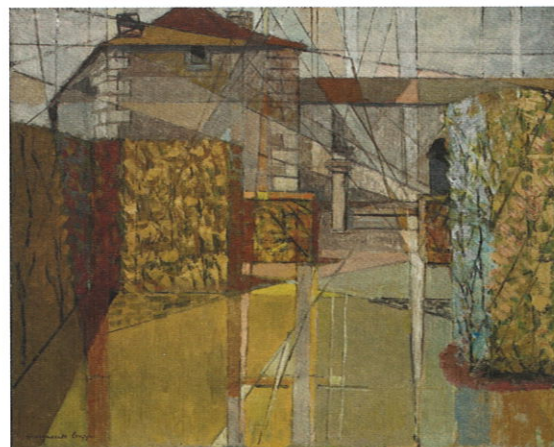


dominated the pedagogical method. Early in her career she experienced great success, painting still lifes and interior scenes and exhibiting at Paris galleries. One of those, Galerie Charpentier, included her in a 1936 exhibition titled “Premier Salon de la Nouvelle Génération” that was said to show “the elite of the young painters.” That same year, the French State acquired one of her paintings, now in the Centre Pompidou.

After a busy social and artistic life in Paris in the 1930s and '40s, Louppe and Brianchon moved in the '50s to the Dordogne, where for the first time Louppe had a studio that was entirely her own. Here, her main subjects were her own studio and

the landscape surrounding it. As before, she combined figuration with modernist abstraction. Particularly in her still lifes (which often depict artist’s tools and materials on a table), Louppe added lines that break the space up into component parts, conveying a sense that they are diagrams, as alluded to in the title of the Rosenberg exhibition. Sometimes these lines cause the viewer to perceive the space as if through a prism. Her landscapes and garden views also used the linear refraction effect, which gives these works a Diebenkorn-like quality.

In the last phase of her career, Louppe exhibited at Galerie des Granges in Geneva in 1978 and at the Galerie Yoshii in Paris in 1980; her last show was at the Galerie



Paul Valotton in Lausanne in 1985. Despite advancing blindness during the 1980s, Louppe kept working steadily, guided by her belief that painting demands complete devotion from its acolytes.

Rosenberg & Co. has recently announced its representation of The Estate of Marguerite Louppe and Maurice Brianchon.