

HYPERACTIVE VISION: *STILL & ART* OPENS FRIDAY

The most original abstract expressionist was also the most deeply versed in art history.



Left to right: Paul Cézanne, *Scipio*, 1867. Oil on canvas, 42 1/8 x 32 5/8 in. Museu de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil. Photo: Bridgeman-Giraudon / Art Resource, NY; Stone face from Gallatin County, Kentucky. 10 x 6 in. As reproduced in *Indian Art of the United States* (exhibition catalog), Museum of Modern Art (1941); Clyfford Still, PH-215, 1935. Oil on canvas, 32 1/8 x 26 in. Clyfford Still Museum, Denver © City and County of Denver / ARS, NY

Still & Art

September 29, 2017–January 21, 2018
Clyfford Still Museum, Denver

Denver, CO—The world's most intact public collection of any major American artist delves deep into Clyfford Still's practice and ideas this fall. [Still & Art](#) presents the most widely investigative survey mounted by the Museum, which enters its seventh year this November. The first exhibition to extensively juxtapose Still's art with numerous reproduced images by more than 30 other artists, the display also features the Museum's first augmented reality experience.

Occupying the Museum's nine galleries with 79 artworks by Still created over a span of sixty years, ***Still & Art* brings new meaning to Still's provocative 1979 declaration, "My work is not influenced by anybody."** Scholar and critic **David Anfam** has studied the artist for over four decades. His installation enables visitors to discover both direct connections and subtle correspondences that reveal the complexity driving Still's imagination. References as diverse as Hollywood's two *Frankenstein* films from the 1930s, the great Mexican muralist José Clemente Orozco, Vincent van Gogh and Pablo Picasso, popular cartoons, ancient and

modern sculptures, and more besides, were grist to the mill of Still's powerful vision, which recast them into extraordinarily novel new syntheses.

Beginning in mid-October, twelve works by ten key figures will feature in the galleries by means of augmented reality. Through a custom handheld device, these virtual images screened on gallery walls recreate the hues, textures, and presence of the original pieces to a degree unmatched by traditional two-dimensional reproductions. Featured are Leonardo da Vinci, Willem de Kooning, Théodore Géricault, Anselm Kiefer, Morris Louis, Barnett Newman, Gottardo Piazzoni, Robert Rauschenberg, Philip Taaffe, and Van Gogh. This experience is made possible through a partnership with Google, the software developer GuidiGO, and media company RYOT.



Left to right: Clyfford Still, PL-9, 1943. Lithograph, 12 3/4 x 8 3/4 in. Clyfford Still Museum, Denver © City and County of Denver / ARS, NY; A cartoon by Alfred Frueh from Still's library. Image courtesy Clyfford Still Archives

Still & Art begins with Still's acknowledgment of several Old Masters whom he admired, including Leonardo, Rembrandt, J.M.W. Turner, and Van Gogh; progresses to his interrogation of near-contemporaries in Europe and the United States such as Max Ernst, Alberto Giacometti, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Picasso; and concludes with epic canvases and intimate pastels that show the artist meditating on his own past production as well as anticipating or paralleling color-field painting, minimalism, and comparable avant-garde directions in the 1960s and 70s. In sum, *Still & Art* is an unfolding visual drama that chronicles the visual acumen at the crux of Still's long creative trajectory.

"This exhibition explores how Still's incredible originality stems from the sheer diversity of his mind and eye, which roved far and wide across painting,

sculpture, photography, cinema, literature and the world around him," said **David Anfam**, senior consulting curator and director of the Clyfford Still Museum Research Center. "The most singular and revolutionary abstract expressionist was also, without irony or apology, the most deeply immersed in the history of art and keenly attentive to both popular culture and the artistic vanguards of his time. *Still & Art* illustrates how he channeled these perspectives into his own intensely personal style."

Still & Art is curated by David Anfam, senior consulting curator and director of the Clyfford Still Museum Research Center. It is dedicated to Dr. Anfam's life partner, Frederick A. Bearman.

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MORE

The 34 artists featured with Clyfford Still through reproductions are Arnold Böcklin, Georges Braque, Charles Burchfield, Paul Cézanne, Leonardo da Vinci, Charles-François Daubigny, Willem de Kooning, Eugène Delacroix, Max Ernst, Walker Evans, Al Frueh, Théodore Géricault, Alberto Giacometti, Robert Henri, Anselm Kiefer, Morris Louis, Henri Matisse, Jean-François Millet, Joan Miró, Claude Monet, Edvard Munch, Barnett Newman, Georgia O'Keeffe, José Clemente Orozco, Gottardo Piazzoni, Pablo Picasso, Robert Rauschenberg, Mark Rothko, Richard Serra, Philip Taaffe, J.M.W. Turner, Vincent van Gogh, Rembrandt van Rijn, and Grant Wood.

Still & Art is the Museum's 21st exhibition since opening in the fall of 2011. In six years the Museum has also created six full-length publications; organized three national symposia; co-produced an hour-long documentary film; collaborated with artists including Matthew Barney, Mark Bradford, Roni Horn, and Julian Schnabel; presented keynotes by Michael Kimmelman, Jerry Saltz, and Roberta Smith; built an innovative free school visit program; and made its public programs and youth admission free to all. The Museum has exhibited 783 different works of art by Clyfford Still to date. Slightly more than 2,400 works in Denver's collection remain to be exhibited.

More than 2,200 works of art—approximately 470 paintings and 1,750 works on paper by Still—are now available at **collection.clyffordstillmuseum.org** in high resolution. More than 1,900 objects from the Clyfford Still Archives are also now public for the first time at **clyffordstillmuseum.org/database**, the Museum's new research database.

ABOUT THE CLYFFORD STILL MUSEUM

The Clyfford Still Museum opened in November of 2011 to promote public appreciation and scholarly understanding of the life and work of Clyfford Still (1904–80). Considered one of the most important—yet mysterious—painters of the 20th century, Still was among the first generation of Abstract Expressionist artists who developed a new, forceful approach to painting in the years during and immediately after World War II. In addition to approximately 9,000 square feet of exhibition space devoted solely to the artist's output, the Museum also houses the Clyfford Still Archives and the Clyfford Still Museum Research Center. The *Los Angeles Times* calls the Museum “a marvelous model for what a single-artist museum can be.” *Smithsonian Magazine* describes the Museum as “among the best art museum experiences anywhere.” The Museum was designed by Allied Works Architecture, which received the 2013 Design Award, 2012 Honor Award, and 2012 Craftsmanship Award from regional chapters of the American Institute of Architects for the project.

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