



A B B E V I L L E P U B L I S H I N G G R O U P

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Publication: April 2010

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This wide-ranging study suggests that Jewish artists have been especially devoted to figurative art, and wary of abstraction, because of their cultural background.

The Human Figure and Jewish Culture

By Eliane Strosberg
Foreword by Julia Weiner

“This is a valuable and informative work.”—*The Jewish Chronicle* (UK)

“A very exciting work... [Strosberg] examines the Jewish background of some of the most famous artists, and she gives life to many forgotten artists as well.”

—*Beaux Arts Magazine*

“Offers an interesting philosophical insight into the destinies of numerous Jewish painters...” —*Les Echos*

In the twentieth century, the avant-garde movements promoted abstraction and formal experimentation in the visual arts, often dispensing with the human form altogether. Yet many artists of Jewish descent resisted this trend and continued to depict the human figure with sympathy and understanding. Few of them portrayed overtly Jewish themes, but—as Eliane Strosberg argues in **THE HUMAN FIGURE AND JEWISH CULTURE** (March 2010, \$45.00)—their stubborn devotion to the human figure was itself a reflection of their Jewishness. Though their individual styles were diverse, they all used the human figure as a means of communicating, in secular terms, various aspects of their Jewish intellectual heritage, such as their humanistic values, passion for social justice, and opposition to the nihilism that underlay so much of modern culture.

In her highly readable text, Strosberg analyzes the work of numerous Jewish artists—from Camille Pissarro to George Segal—whom she identifies with this figurative tendency that she aptly dubs “Human Expressionism.” She devotes particular attention to

the immigrant painters of the École de Paris, like Soutine and Modigliani; the American social realists, like Ben Shahn and Raphael Soyer; and the masters of the postwar School of London, like Lucian Freud and R. B. Kitaj.

Abundantly illustrated with well-chosen works by the artists under discussion, *The Human Figure and Jewish Culture* is an essential addition to any library of art history or Judaica.

About the Author:

Eliane Strosberg, who holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, was cofounder of the cultural organization Rencontres Art et Science. Her book *Art and Science* (Abbeville), produced in cooperation with UNESCO, has been translated into several languages. **Julia Weiner**, a curator and art critic based in London, has served as head of education at the Courtauld Institute and as a consultant to the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Specifications:

THE HUMAN FIGURE AND JEWISH CULTURE

By Eliane Strosberg, Foreword by Julia Weiner

ISBN 978-0-7892-1054-8

Cloth, 9 5/8 × 11"

208 pages, 110 full-color illustrations

\$45.00

Publication: April 2010

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