

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unconscious Unbound

Surrealism in America

March 13 – May 29, 2010

Opening Reception:
Saturday, March 13, 2010 / 4:00-6:00

(New York, NY, March 10, 2010) – **Michael Rosenfeld Gallery** is pleased to present *Unconscious Unbound: Surrealism in America*, the gallery's first exhibition in over a decade dedicated to the influence of surrealism on American figural and abstract art. Spanning two decades from 1931 to 1952, the exhibition features painting, drawing, sculpture, and collage by thirty-two artists: **William Baziotes, Eugene Berman, Federico Castellon, Eldzier Cortor, Willem deKooning, Jimmy Ernst, Herbert Ferber, Jared French, Arshile Gorky, Morris Graves, David Hare, Charles Howard, Jerome Kamrowski, Leon Kelly, Harold Lehman, Norman Lewis, Seymour Lipton, Helen Lundeberg, Boris Margo, Irving Norman, Gordon Onslow-Ford, Alfonso Ossorio, Jackson Pollock, Richard Pousette-Dart, Theodore Roszak, Mark Rothko, Charles Seliger, Kurt Seligmann, Theodoros Stamos, Dorothea Tanning, Pavel Tchelitchew and John Wilde.**

As material by many of these artists becomes increasingly rare, having found its way into private and permanent museum collections, *Unconscious Unbound: Surrealism in America* offers a special opportunity to view the works of celebrated practitioners of American surrealism alongside those by artists not typically labeled surrealist, but whose beginnings are rooted in the movement. The broad scope of this group show enables the exhibition to explore the rich and seemingly divergent manifestations of surrealism in American art. William Baziotes's vibrant, abstract *Star Figure* (1948) co-exists with the despair of Eugene Berman's *Medusa's Corner* (1943); the violence of Pavel Tchelitchew's *Boys Fighting in Wheat* (1939-41) is complemented by the disquieting sensuality of Eldzier Cortor's *The Wall* (1948). The result is an exhibition where variety in scale, medium, and degree of abstraction is balanced by the strong continuity among all the works – a reliance on automatism, a juxtaposition of unexpected elements and conflicting temporalities, and the presence of organic forms – bringing to light the profound impact surrealism had on pre- and post-war American artists.

Since its founding in 1989, **Michael Rosenfeld Gallery** has passionately championed American surrealist artists, dedicating solo exhibitions to (among others) Pavel Tchelitchew, Morris Graves, Norman Lewis,



Pavel Tchelitchew (1898-1957), *Boys Fighting in Wheat*, 1939-41, oil on canvas, 28 3/4" x 18 1/4", signed

and Theodoros Stamos. The gallery currently represents the estates of Charles Seliger, Seymour Lipton, Theodore Roszak, Boris Margo, Federico Castellon, Alfonso Ossorio, and Irving Norman. The past decade has seen several major museum exhibitions dedicated to American surrealism. These shows and their accompanying catalogues have helped sustain existing interest in American surrealists and have sparked new interest in American surrealism on a global scale. They include: *The Surrealists in Exile and the Origin of the New York School*, 1999 (Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain and Musées de Strasbourg, Strasbourg); *Surrealism USA*, 2005 (National Academy Museum, New York, New York; Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona); and *Repartir à zero, 1945-1949 [Starting from Scratch]*, 2008 (Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, Lyon, France).

Unconscious Unbound: Surrealism in America is part of this renewed interest in American surrealism; its scope challenges the traditional parameters of what constitutes surrealist art while maintaining a spotlight on surrealism's masters.

* * * * *

Visuals available upon request. To view this exhibition in its entirety, please visit www.michaelrosenfeldart.com.

Michael Rosenfeld Gallery is located at 24 West 57th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10AM-6PM. For additional information, please contact Marjorie Van Cura at 212.247.0082 or mv@michaelrosenfeldart.com

24 WEST 57TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10019
TEL 212-247-0082 FAX 212-247-0402
INFO@MICHAELROSENFELDART.COM
WWW.MICHAELROSENFELDART.COM

ART DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBER

MICHAEL ROSENFELD GALLERY LLC