



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

## **Willem De Kooning**

Born:

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 1924

Williem de Kooning attended night classes at the Rotterdam Academy of Fine Arts and Technology from 1916 to 1924 while working the day at various commercial art jobs. In 1926 he emigrated to the United States (he became a US citizen in 1961), living first in Hoboken, New Jersey, and then in New York City. Integrating himself into the city's community of artists, writers, and musicians (Stuart Davis, John Graham, Arshile Gorky, Edwin Denby, Virgil Thompson), he continued to work at commercial art jobs and carpentry until 1935, when he began to paint full time. His first series of women dates from 1938. By 1943, the year of his marriage to Elaine Fried, de Kooning had met David Smith, Barnett Newman, Franz Kline, and had become close friends with Jackson Pollock. In 1948 he had his first one-man show at the Charles Egan Gallery and taught at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. He is one of the seminal figures in the abstract expressionist movement.

De Kooning made his first print, an etching, in 1957 and his earliest lithographs, printed at the University of California, Berkeley, date from 1960. A later period of activity in lithography at Hollanders Workshop in New York dates from 1970-71. In 1963 he moved to East Hampton, where he continued to live and work until his death in 1997.

Among his major retrospective exhibitions have been those organized by the Smith College Museum of Art, Northhampton (1965), and the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1968). In 1983 traveling retrospective exhibitions opened at the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He was honored with a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, in 1997.