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GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

## **Robert Motherwell**

Born:

Aberdeen, Washington, 1915

Robert Motherwell spent most of his youth in San Francisco and attended preparatory school in Atascadero, California. In 1932, after studying painting briefly at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco, he transferred to Stanford University, receiving a B.A. in philosophy in 1937. He then attended the Graduate School of Philosophy at Harvard. In 1938 Motherwell traveled in Europe, eventually settling in Paris, where he maintained a studio until about mid-1939.

Motherwell entered graduate school at Columbia University in 1940 but, encouraged by Meyer Schapiro, left to become a painter. During the 1940's the artist also began to work in collage, and in 1941 he began to make prints, first studying engraving with Kurt Seligmann and later working at Stanley William Hayter's workshop, Atelier 17. His serious commitment to printmaking, however, dates from 1961 when he produced his first editions at ULAE. Since then, in addition to Gemini, he has worked at Hollanders Workshop, Kelpra Studios, and at Tyler Graphics, Ltd. Motherwell also had etching and lithography facilities in his Greenwich, CT studio.

A central figure in the intellectual currents of contemporary art and thought, Motherwell taught at Black Mountain College and Hunter College of the City of New York. He was an editor for the Documents of Modern Art series (George Wittenborn) and general editor of the Documents of Twentieth-Century Art series (Viking Press). Among major exhibitions of his work are those organized by Bennington College (1959); the Pasadena Art Museum (1962); the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1965); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (1972); and the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (1983). In 1980 the American Federation of Arts circulated a comprehensive exhibition of Motherwell's graphic art. He passed away in 1991 in Cape Cod, MA.