

ROSENBERG & CO.

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Rosenberg & Co. Opens Exhibition

UNCONVENTIONAL FIGURES

September 8 – October 30, 2020

Rosenberg & Co. is pleased to present *Unconventional Figures*, an exhibition highlighting the diverse and nuanced approaches that twentieth-century artists took in depicting the human form.

Representing the figure has been a foundational practice for Western artists throughout history. Access to figure drawing classes or models was a pathway to artistic professionalism, and from the Renaissance... . At the end of the nineteenth century, as artists worked to challenge and dissolve those traditional hierarchies, the figure took on new and exciting forms; in print, on canvas, and in sculpture, the body was modernized, abstracted, and fragmented.

From simplified shapes to fully nonrepresentational forms, *Unconventional Figures* explores the many ways in which artists depicted the figure amidst the newfound dynamism of the twentieth century. Works by Aristide Maillol and Joaquín Torres-García pay homage to ancient, idealized bodies and also emphasize the sense of monumentalism that was particular to contemporary sculpture. Other works, such as *Personnage debout* by Georges Valmier or *Femme bizarre* by Julio González, are fully abstract and transform familiar bodily elements into fragmented planes.

Artists working across continents, such as Louis Ribak and Béla Kádár, envisioned the female nude—one of the most recognizable and time-honored subjects—but transplanted her into new, decorative settings that disguised the distinction between subject and environment. Others, like Peter Kinley—working 30 years later—utilized planes of color to abstract the figure within the composition. The photographs of Fred Stein and the sculptures and drawings of Giacomo Manzù are both case studies in how an artist transforms notions of the body over a lifetime of work dedicated to it. From the beginning to the end of the century, artists removed the body from the constraints of classical depiction, and the subject became an ample site for artists to experiment with style, medium, movement, and scale.

Rosenberg & Co. is a salon-style space with a focus on the highest standards of connoisseurship and expertise. Rosenberg & Co. exhibits an international roster of works by prominent Impressionist and Modern artists and continues the legacy of working with contemporary artists.

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