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Eccentrics, Misfits and Idealists

**David Burliuk (1882-1967) Louis Eilshemius (1864-1941)
Lawrence Lebduska (1894-1966)**

October 31 through December 5, 2009

ACA Galleries is pleased to present *Eccentrics, Misfits and Idealists* an exhibition featuring paintings and works on paper by three artists who worked outside the mainstream. Their works defy categorization and do not easily fit in to the art historical canon. Each presents idealized views of the world; Burliuk looks back to his Ukrainian roots to produce romantic scenes of daily life; Eilshemius created sweeping vistas and Arcadian landscapes where nymph-like nudes frolic and Lebduska executed works with exotic animals cavorting in an utopian land.

David Burliuk is regarded as the "father of Russian Futurism" and was an important contributor to 20th century Modernism. After initiating a "Futurist tour" in Siberia (1918-1920) and bringing Futurism to Japan (1920-1922) he immigrated to New York in 1922.

Born in the Ukraine, he studied in Odesa and Kazan (1898-1902), at the Munich Royal Academy of Arts (1902-1903) and at the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris (1904). In 1910 he became a member of the *Blaue Reiter* (Blue Rider) group which included Wassily Kandinsky among others.

His art is included many museum collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY; Museum of Modern Art, NY; Guggenheim Museum, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Brooklyn Museum, NY; Museum of Fine Arts Boston, MA; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC; State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg; National Art Museum of Ukraine, Kyiv; and National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto among others. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1967.

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Louis Eilshemius was a painter, poet and composer. Self-described as "Mightiest Mind Wonder of the Worlds. Supreme Parnassian and Grand Transcendent Eagle of Art," he received the support of numerous artists and collectors including Louise Bourgeois, Gaston Lachaise, Joseph Stella, Alfred Stieglitz, Roy Neuberger, Joseph Hirschhorn, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and others. In 1920 Marcel Duchamp, persuaded Katherine Dreier to give the fifty-six year old his first solo show at the Société Anonyme.

Born in 1864 to a wealthy family in North Arlington, New Jersey, he attended Cornell University (1882-83), studied at the Art Students League in New York (1884-6) and traveled to Paris into study at the Academie Julien (1886). In 1887 and 1888, his landscapes were accepted by the National Academy of Design for their annual exhibition.

His works are in numerous public collections including The Metropolitan Museum, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, NY; Museum of Modern Art, NY; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington DC; Neuberger Museum, NY; The Phillips Collection, Washington DC; Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; De Young Museum, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Fine Arts Boston, MA; and New York Historical Society, NY among others.

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Lawrence Lebduska was born in Baltimore, Maryland. When he was five years old his family returned to their native city of Leipzig in East Germany. He was educated there and studied stained-glass making at a technical school. He had no formal artistic training but began to paint by applying the skills he had learned from making stained-glass. He returned to America in 1912, settling first in Baltimore and then moving to New York the following year. He was commissioned to paint murals by the interior designer Elsie de Wolfe and later created stained-glass and murals for several residences in New York.

In 1936 he had his first solo exhibition in at the Contemporary Gallery. The exhibition was well received with a review in the New York Times and many works acquired by important collectors including Abby Aldrich Rockefeller and Eleanor Roosevelt. Later he was included in the WPA's Art Project in New York and exhibited at Babcock, Valentine and Kleeman Galleries during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Although his health deteriorated in the late 1950s, he resumed painting and had exhibitions at the Krasner Gallery in 1960 and Tutti Gallery in 1962.

His work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, NY; the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, NY; University of Arizona Museum, AZ; Milwaukee Art Museum, WI; New York State Historical Association, NY; Phoenix Art Museum, AZ; Newark Museum, NJ; Wadsworth Atheneum, CT; and Weatherspoon Art Museum, SC among others.