

# Press Release

## *Stuart Davis: Self-Portrait*



Kasmin is pleased to announce its forthcoming publication, *Stuart Davis: Self Portrait*. Created in collaboration with the artist's estate, which Kasmin has represented since 2018, *Stuart Davis: Self Portrait* continues Kasmin's commitment to expanding understanding of significant 20th century artists through scholarly publications and major exhibitions, recently including the exhibition *Lines Thicken: Stuart Davis in Black and White* (2018).

Edited by the artist's son, Earl Davis, and designed by Tod Lippy, creator of the award-winning arts annual *Esopus*, *Stuart Davis: Self Portrait* will provide a rare and intimate study of the life and work of the celebrated Modernist painter through a collection of previously unseen archival material. Due for publication in fall 2020, the book will include a foreword by Earl Davis and will be consulted upon by Priscilla Vail Caldwell, advisor to the Estate.

With the inclusion of personal correspondence, family photographs, sketchbooks, calendar pages, diary extracts, early drafts of articles by Davis, and other ephemera, Davis and Lippy build an immersive, layered and nuanced portrait of Stuart Davis (1892 – 1964), one of the preeminent figures of the American Modernist movement. Over the course of his prolific career, which spanned the early 20th century through the post-war era, Davis developed a distinct visual language that fused Cubism and high art with his own pioneering motifs of consumerism and the syncopated rhythms of jazz.

Tod Lippy says, "It's thrilling to have the opportunity to explore this amazing archive with Earl Davis and present a selection of its contents in book form. These letters, notebook entries, sketches, and other ephemera offer unprecedented access to the fascinating mind of one of the most important artists of the 20th century, and they will undoubtedly offer important new perspectives on his practice as a painter, writer, and activist."

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Under Lippy's sole editorship, the nonprofit Esopus Foundation Ltd. published *Esopus* from 2003 to 2018. The magazine commissioned projects of artists all over the world and was unique in its tactility and emphasis on rarely seen, idiosyncratic content from a wide range of creative disciplines. Beyond the magazine, the Esopus Foundation continues its dedication to creating an unfiltered space in which artists and the public can interact in meaningful, productive ways. Lippy brings this exceptional commitment to research, curation, and creative production to *Stuart Davis: Self Portrait*.

Caldwell is an independent curator and advisor based in New York City. Caldwell is a member of the board at SculptureCenter in Long Island City and sits on the Advisory Committee at Northwestern University's Block Art Museum. She earned her Master's of Art History at Williams College—where she and Lippy were classmates—and is a past recipient of the Kress Foundation Grant.

Founded by Paul Kasmin in SoHo in 1989, Kasmin cultivates a rigorous exhibition program that places historic figures of Post-War art in dialogue with the evolving practice of established and emerging artists working today. Dedicated to furthering academic research on its artists, the gallery regularly develops scholarly publications that shed new light on their diverse practices. Kasmin's comprehensive catalogs include *Brancusi & Duchamp: The Art of Dialogue*, Lee Krasner's *Umber Paintings*, William N. Copley's *X-Rated*, Simon Hantai's *Blancs*, *Alexander the Great: The Iolas Gallery 1955-1987*, *Impasse Ronsin*, and the first English translation of a monograph-scale book of sculpture by Max Ernst.

Image 1: Stuart Davis and Earl Davis in the artist's studio, 1964. Photographer unknown.

Image 2: Calendar extract, 1954.

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