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## Ward Lockwood

(American Painter, 1894-1963)

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Ward Lockwood was born in Atchison, Kansas, in 1894. At his father's instigation, Lockwood began his study of art at a very early age with classes at the Art Institute of Chicago. He continued his studies at the University of Kansas from 1912-1914 and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts from 1914-1916. He was stationed in France during the First World War and returned there afterwards to study and paint. Lockwood returned to the United States in 1922, where he worked for a number of years as a commercial artist in Kansas City. In 1926, he paid his first visit to Taos. He returned there two years later to live. During his time in Taos, he befriended the artists Andrew Dasburg and John Marin, whose joint influence served to push Lockwood from his early regional work to a bolder, more modern style. He became a member of the Taos Society of Artists. During the mid-1930s, Lockwood painted murals for the WPA. In 1938, he moved from Taos to found and develop of the art department at the University of Texas, Austin. From 1948-1961, he taught at the University of California, Berkeley, spending his summers teaching in Taos, and occasionally exhibiting with the abstract expressionists of the San Francisco Art Association. Upon his retirement in 1961, he returned to Taos and continued to live and work there until his death in 1963.

Lockwood's early work - primarily landscapes - is strongly influenced by Dasburg's structure, geometric style. Over time, Lockwood's work became bolder, looser, and more abstract. During this time, he also began to incorporate Indian themes and subject matter. After World War II, Lockwood developed a more expressionistic style, experimenting with acrylic paint, collage and junk assemblage. However, throughout his career, his work never lost its foundation in the elements of landscape.

Lockwood's work has been exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago and the San Francisco Museum of Fine Arts. A traveling retrospective of his work was mounted by the University of Texas Art Museum in 1967. His works are included in the collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Denver Art Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among other public and private collections.

### *Sources and Further Reading:*

Eldredge, Charles C. *Ward Lockwood*. Lawrence, KA: The University of Kansas Press, 1974.  
Canfield Gallery