

# PEYTON WRIGHT

237 East Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

800 879-8898  
505 989-9888  
505 989-9889 Fax  
fineart@peytonwright.com

## Hugo Weber (1918 -1971)



Hugo Weber was born in Basal, Switzerland in 1918. He began studying painting at the University of Basal, and later went on to study in Paris with Maillot, where he became acquainted with Giacometti and Brancusi. He taught at the Institute of Design in Chicago and is represented in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. A showing of his abstract paintings at the Betty Parsons Gallery in New York in 1954 was praised by the Times critics for its “vitality and an incessant search for fresh pictorial ideas.” His work was described as “an art of pure self-expression, reflecting nothing in terms of subject matter, which would guarantee nothing were it not that he is a virtuoso with the brush and that his color sense is

delicately exuberant.” Weber lived and worked for many years among other artists in a loft/studio building on New York’s Greenwich Street. Although he was mainly a painter, the New York Times noted, “Mr. Weber had also done sculpture, including a bronze portrait of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the architect.” A film he made in 1954, which showed him in the act of painting, was explained by Weber, according to the Times, as an effort “to show its developmental aspect and the spontaneity of the artist’s continuous search for symbolic meaning.”

Speaking of Weber, Jack Kerouac said, “Somebody told Hugo that he was too intelligent to be a painter. He is actually one of the last of the Faustian men studying paint. He is probably Etruscan. Hugo Weber, Who looks like a submarine commander for Karl Doenitz, Is actually a sleeping young author dreaming in paint, But Excellently...If works had power, I’d praise him for himself, But also his paintings speak.”

Hugo Weber died in 1971 at the age of 53; The New York Times described him as “a painter long recognized as a member of the avant-garde.”