

# shfap

Press Release:

***For WLD***

January 18- February 12, 2016  
Opening Reception: Wednesday, January 18  
Hours: Wed-Sun 12-6pm & by appointment  
steven harvey fine art projects  
208 forsyth street, ny, ny 10002



*Portrait Of WL-D, Sangram Majumdar*

Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects presents a loan exhibition entitled *for WLD*, an homage to William Louis-Dreyfus, an extraordinary collector who passed away in September, 2016. The exhibition includes 18 objects on loan from The William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, many of which were acquired by him from Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects. Artists included in the show are: **Lennart Anderson, Gideon Bok, Chuck Bowdish, James Castle, Susanna Coffey, Tara Geer, Alison Hall, Kurt Knobelsdorf, Stanley Lewis, Sangram Majumdar, Raymond Mason, Catherine Murphy, Graham Nickson, Stephanie Pierce, Eleanor Ray, E.M. Saniga, Beatrice Scaccia, and Stuart Shils.**

William Louis-Dreyfus was described by Karen Wilkin in *Hyperallergic* as “a passionate lover of art, an eager collector, a published poet, a committed supporter of the underprivileged, a defender of social justice, a lover of trees, an ecologist, a fruit farmer, a maker of excellent preserves, and a plain-spoken, unpretentious man of ineffable, self-deprecating charm –among many other things.”

Louis-Dreyfus was born in Paris in 1932. He moved to America with his mother in 1940. He studied law at Duke University. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Louis-Dreyfus Group. He began collecting art in the early 1960s, gathering works that were diverse yet encyclopedic. Today, the collection has amassed over 3,500 objects by some 170 different artists. These pieces are held in a beautifully renovated warehouse in Mount Kisco open to visitors by appointment. One of the missions of the Foundation is to teach its visitors the importance of finding new, emerging, and self-taught artists. In 2014, Dreyfus was awarded the Robert Mills Architect Medal from The Smithsonian American Art Museum. Also during that year he received an Advancement of American Art Award from the National Academy Museum and School.

Consisting primarily of small format paintings and drawings, many of the works were acquired by Louis-Dreyfus from Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects. Louis-Dreyfus believed in the continuing relevance of traditional genres in contemporary art including the figure, still life, interior, and landscape. The works chosen expand the conception of what is traditional and what is new in contemporary painting. Works are characterized by the obsessive observational work and a lush quality apparent in Gideon Bok, Sangram Majumdar, Catherine Murphy, and E.M. Saniga. Elements of visionary art are evident in Chuck Bowdish’s tiny watercolor of a figure by the shore and James Castle’s ragged farmhouse interior. Louis-Dreyfus’s interest in contemporary landscape is seen in Stuart Shils’s vaporous Italian hilltown, Graham Nickson’s late 60s’ Roman sunset, Eleanor Ray’s snowy window scene and Stephanie Pierce’s fragmentary window sill.

The gallery will be closed on January 20<sup>th</sup> in observation of the J20 general strike, acknowledging William Louis-Dreyfus’s anti voter-suppression activism.

Please contact the gallery at [info@shfap.com](mailto:info@shfap.com) or 917-861-7312 for further information or images.