

GANDY BRODIE

Gandy Brodie's paintings are in a tradition that is both mystical and fervent; William Blake and Albert Pinkham Ryder were painter-poets whose voices and visions were congruent to Brodie's. Like so many mystics, Brodie was naive, and he was made irritable by the chilly commercial overconfidence of the New York art world. Unable to find the calm he needed to paint his remarkable pictures, Brodie moved to Vermont and made only occasional trips to New York to look at new and old master painting.

The hedonistic climate that prevailed in the sixties and seventies made it difficult for many to 'see' Brodie's originality. Neither the bright Pop images, nor the incandescent swaths of amplified color of sixties' abstraction rhymed with his mystifying quietism. Brodie did have his champions, and champions they were: his former teacher, Meyer Shapiro and the critic, Clement Greenberg. It is Gandy Brodie's example that lays low once and for all the widely held myth that the art world is 'controlled' by a handful of eminences. Brodie's audience, despite his advocates, remains painfully small but ardent.

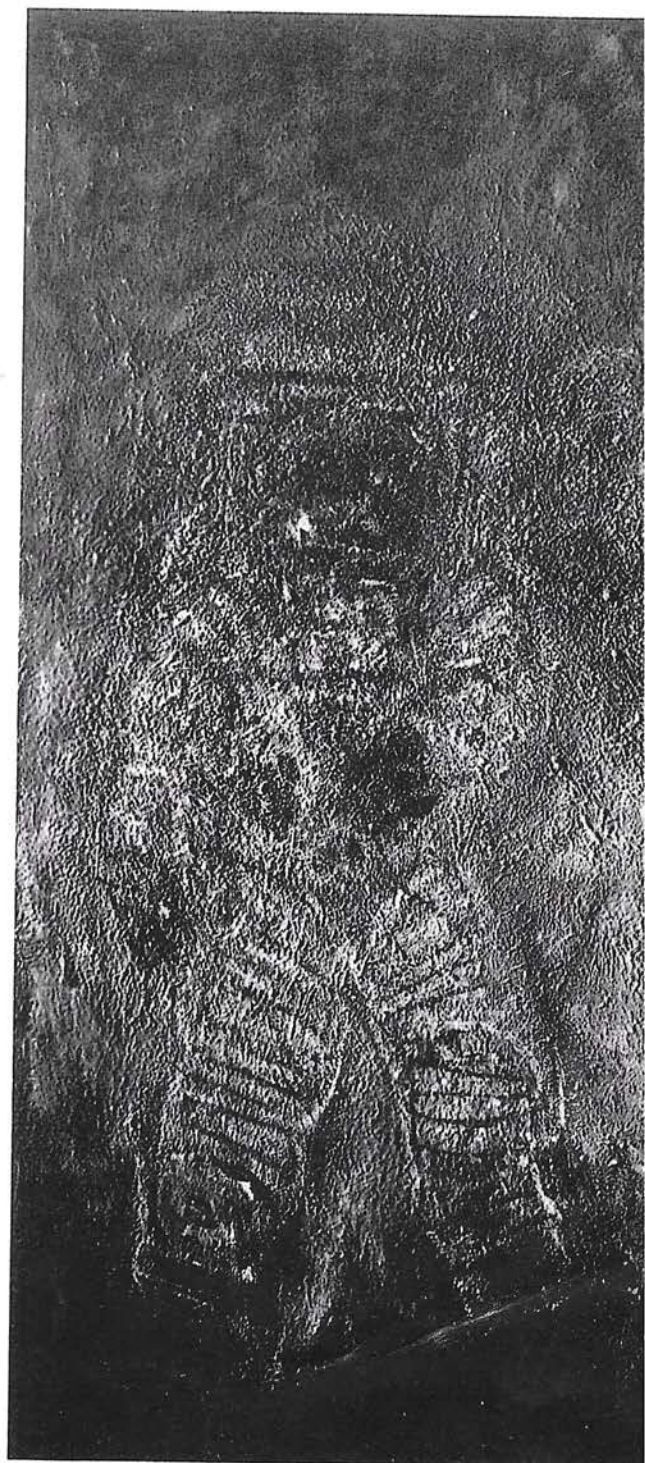
Nature always provided the genesis of Brodie's paintings. The range in subject comprehended cut flowers in a bowl, a lone seagull in flight in a vasty ocean-sky, and an astronaut lumbering gracefully in the ether. Always it was the numinous that moved Gandy Brodie and he was able to give us paintings that were essences, feelings as much as observations.

GANDY BRODIE

The Astronaut. 1974

Oil on canvas, 96 x 60 inches

Sidney Janis Gallery, New York



FROM THE EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

"UNDERKUNN" - 1981 ESSAYS BY HENRY GELTZNER

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Henry Geldzahler (essays and curation)

Exhibition Catalog for *Underknown, Twelve Artists Re-Seen in 1984*

The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, PS 1, Long Island City, NYC, Oct. 14 – Dec. 9, 1984

The Astronaut, 1974, oil on canvas, 96" x 60"

Brodie Estate

End of Winter, 1956, oil on board, 47 ¼" x 57 ¼"

Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC

Faded Poppy, 1970-72, oil on Masonite, 27" x 21 13/16"

Collection, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC