Daniela Garcia

Richard Diebenkorn Script

Richard Diebenkorn was an American painter and printmaker.

His early work is associated with abstract expressionism and the bay area figurative movement. Diebenkorn attended Stanford University in 1940, here he majored in studio art and art history.

He studied under Victor Arnautoff and Daniel Mendelowitz.

Daniel took Diebenkorn to visit the home of Sarah Stein, where he saw works by Cezanne, Picasso, and Matisse.

This early exposure to European modernism opened doors to the creative future he would make.

He joined the Marine Corps in 1943 and when he returned in 1946, Diebenkorn took advantage of the G.I. bill to study at the California School of Fine Arts. That same year he received the Bender Grant-in-Aid fellowship, which allowed him to spend nearly a year in New York. Diebenkorn’s relatively small canvases of this period reflect his influences in New York many of whom were influenced by Picasso.

In 1952 he accepted a teaching position at the university of Illinois, the work he made at this time was known as the “Urbana Period” and is characterized by his use of subtle abstract/ calligraphic style, but with a richer more intense palette.

In the late 1960’s he began his extensive series of geometric, lyrical abstract paintings. These were the works that are associated with Diebenkorn as a painter.