

ROBERT MOTHERWELL (1915-1991)

Open Study in Tobacco Brown

Signed upper left, "RM" acrylic and charcoal on canvas 20 x 30 in. (23 1/2 x 33 1/2 x 2 in.) 50.8 x 76.2 cm (59.69 x 85.09 x 5.08 cm) 1971

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PROVENANCE:

The Dedalus Foundation, New York
M. Knoedler & Co., Inc., New York, New York
Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, North Carolina
Private Collection, United States/Toronto

LITERATURE:

Jack Flam, Katy Rogers, & Tim Clifford, *Robert Motherwell Paintings and Collages: a catalogue raisonné 1941-1991*, New Haven, CT, Yale University Press, 2012, no. P610, pg. 317

Alongside Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell is considered one of the great American Abstract Expressionist painters. His esteemed intellect not only undergirded his gorgeous, expressive paintings, frequently featuring bold black shapes against fields of color, but also made Motherwell one of the leading writers, theorists, and advocates of the New York School. He forged close friendships with the European Surrealists and other intellectuals over his interests in poetry and philosophy, and as such served as a vital link between the pre-war avant-garde in Europe and its post-war counterpart in New York, establishing automatism and psychoanalysis as central concerns of American abstraction. "It's not that the creative act and the critical act are simultaneous," Motherwell said. "It's more like you blurt something out and then analyze it."

The work of Robert Motherwell has been exhibited worldwide in galleries and museums including, the Dedalus Foundation in New London, the Bernard Jackson Gallery in London, the Paul Kasmin Gallery in New York, and the de Young Museum in San Francsico, among many others.

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