

## **Bradley Walker Tomlin**

**Dates:** 1899-1953

**Residency:** New York City. Woodstock, New York.

**Biography:** Bradley Walker Tomlin is best known for his paintings. He began his artistic career in 1913, studying sculpture and modeling under Hugo Gari Wagner. From 1917-1921 Tomlin studied painting at Syracuse University. After graduation, the artist moved to New York City where he began work as a commercial illustrator. In 1923 he studied in France for a few months before returning to New York to continue working in illustration. In 1925, Tomlin spent the first of many summers in Woodstock, New York, where he met and worked alongside such influential artists like Philip Guston, James Brooks, and Robert Motherwell. The artist also taught his craft beginning at the Buckley School in 1932, and continuing at Sarah Lawrence College from 1933-1941. He was also a founding member of the American Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors, which was dedicated to modernism and the eradication of artistic nationalism. Between 1936 and 1937, Tomlin was drawn to the artistic genres of Dada and Surrealism, which were exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Inspired by the work, Tomlin incorporated the styles into his paintings *The Goblet* (1940) and *Burial* (1943). Later in his career, Tomlin's style veered from Surrealism and Cubism, becoming more painterly and abstract like the work of Philip Guston. This significant shift in style occurred when Tomlin and Guston joined an organization of artists called the Abstract Expressionists in 1948. A collection of his work was exhibited at the MOMA in 1952, one year before his death in 1953.

**Major Accomplishments:** Pioneer of Abstract Expressionist Movement, 1952 exhibition titled *15 Americans* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York.



*Number 15, 1953*

oil on canvas, 46 x 76 in, Sotheby's New York.



*White Horse on a Cityscape, oil on canvas, 1930s.*

