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Library Guide

A Figure of Influence: Lincoln Kirstein and American Art

Indicates work cited in *A Figure of Influence*

Lincoln Kirstein (1907–1996) was an art insider with the imposing personality and ambitious projects to match his sizable six-foot, three-inch frame. Kirstein was involved in the early history of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and co-founded the New York City Ballet. Though he abandoned his own painting career, Kirstein directed considerable energy toward shaping the lives of artists and the art world. He organized exhibitions, wrote about art, and connected artists with collectors, museums, and private galleries. An avid collector himself, he eventually donated work by the artists he championed to several institutions, including The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone: 816.751.1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum’s website at www.nelson-atkins.org

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Carl Van Vechten (1880-1964), *Lincoln Kirstein*, 1933. Gelatin silver print, 8 3/4 × 6 9/16 inches (22.23 × 16.67 cm). Gift of Hallmark Cards, Inc., 2005.27.4431. Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009), *Battleground*, 1981. Tempera on panel, 4 feet 1 1/2 inches x 45 5/8 inches (125.73 x 115.89 cm). Gift of the Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation in memory of Jerome H. Scott Jr., F81-19.

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