

JOSEPH GARLOCK

Landscape

May 9 - June 15, 2002

Ricco Maresca Gallery presents a solo exhibition of works by self-taught painter and sculptor, Joseph Garlock (1884-1980). In a prolific body of work, Garlock captured a wide range of themes including landscapes, highways and waterways, imagery of family and ritual, portraiture, wooden sculptural figures, and vernacular scenes of life. With an extremely painterly style, Garlock covered entire surfaces of wooden boards, cardboard from department store boxes, and canvases. He used a vigorous palette, ranging from monochromatic illustrations in blacks and grays, to bright vibrant hues of color that vibrate in relation to each other. In this exhibition, a number of paintings of scenery and landscapes will be featured as a debut to Garlock's extended work.

Born to a Jewish Rebbe in a small Russian Village near Minsk, Garlock immigrated to New York City with his wife in 1906, and later relocated to suburban Bloomsfield, NJ, where he raised four children and ran a successful fruits and vegetables stand. He later purchased a bus and began a commuter transport business within the town of Bloomsfield. The line was subsequently taken over by the Public Service of New Jersey and became the #82 Watsessing Line. After retiring at the age of sixty-five, Garlock spent a summer in Woodstock, NY, with his daughter who urged her father to take up "a hobby." From this point on, Garlock created hundreds of paintings and sculpture while residing in both Woodstock and New Jersey. Garlock continued until 1965 when he developed a physical palsy in his hands, forcing him to stop making art after sixteen years.

According to his extended family, Garlock did not communicate much about his private obsession. His output of artwork was kept well within his tiny room where a majority of the work was produced. In 1999, the body of work was brought to light by the Garlock family and an upstate gallery, leading to a tiny shed on the Woodstock property of the daughter who first encouraged Joseph Garlock to pick up a brush. The residence still exists, filled with dusty remnants of the artist's output.