

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 8, 2008**



JACOB KAINEN, STREET BREAKERS, 1941, OIL ON BOARD, 12" X 20"

**JACOB KAINEN: 1939 - 1949**  
**June 5 - July 26, 2008**

Washington, DC – Hemphill will open *Jacob Kainen: 1939 – 1949* on Thursday, June 5, 2008 with a public reception from 6:30 – 8:30pm. The exhibition will remain on view through July 26, 2008.

The exhibition will present a selection of Jacob Kainen's paintings, works on paper and etchings from 1939 – 1949. Much of the work from this period is characterized by his move from New York City to Washington, DC in 1942. The work he completed in the years leading up to the move focused on urban life and the hardships of the working class. A prime example of this is *Street Breakers, 1941*, which combines strong swaths of color with a depiction of manual labor. Kainen wanted his work to reflect and relate to both the aesthetic and social issues of the time. After his move to Washington, Kainen began to experiment with the Victorian architecture of the city, emphasizing form and color and often veering toward abstraction. The exhibition marks Kainen's shift into abstraction with *Journey, 1948* and *Dock with White Sky, 1949*.

Kainen maintained an interest in printmaking throughout his career as a painter. In the years following his move to Washington, he made prints using the equipment at the Smithsonian, where he worked in the Division of Graphic Arts. Many of these small etchings are included in the exhibition. The subject matter, like that of his paintings from this time period, focuses on city life and the Washington streetscape.

Born in Waterbury, CT in 1909, Jacob Kainen studied at the Art Students League and worked in the WPA Graphics Division. In 1942, he moved to Washington, DC where he lived and worked until his death in 2001. The artist's distinguished career includes a retrospective at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and numerous paintings and works on paper in the collections of the National Gallery of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Yale University Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among other public and private collections.

**GALLERY HOURS**

Tuesday - Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM and by appointment.

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE FOR REPRODUCTION.

###

**CONTACT:**  
Jessica Naresh  
HEMPHILL Fine Arts  
1515 14th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.234.5601  
jessica@hemphillfinearts.com