

For Immediate Release

**Anselme Boix-Vives
(1899-1969)**

A Utopian Planet

In Avignon, France, on February 5, 1926, while watching a parade of wounded and disfigured veterans of The Great War, an uneducated, shepherd-become-green grocer immigrant from Spain experienced an epiphany: he would devote himself to constructing a plan that would eradicate war from the earth. While his produce business prospered, Anselme Boix-Vives' "Plan For World Peace" languished, though he labored mightily and long for its acceptance. Then at the age of sixty-two, completely unschooled, he began to paint, and over the next six years created his own new world of harmony in more than two thousand works of art.

Jean Dubuffet searched for makers of *Art Brut* who had "escaped cultural conditioning...and above all (possessed) the talent of invention." Boix-Vives brought a unique and idiosyncratic vision to his painting and filled his universe with fantastic flowers and skies of swirling stars; prehistoric birds and animals, gentle and wild; neighbors and newsmakers from TV, some wearing the masks of mortality, some transported to the moon. And all in brilliant, vibrant colors with a joyously obsessive patterning. Some called Boix-Vives "that crazy visionary." But how happy he gave us his paintings to help us see his world.

This is the second exhibition of Boix-Vives' work at Luise Ross Gallery.

Title: Anselme Boix-Vives (1899-1969): *A Utopian Planet*

Dates: 5 April – 25 May 2001

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