

For Immediate Release

Samuel Rothbort

(1882-1971)

Twilight Fantasies

Samuel Rothbort's "fantasies" combine an innate spontaneity with skills amassed over sixty years of painting, sculpting and drawing. He kept this large group of watercolors and ink drawings largely to himself during his lifetime. Now, they are presented for the first time, illustrating the artist's versatility with abstraction and a line reminiscent of 19th century steel-pen drawings. With an intuitive approach, these mysterious compositions display the artist's continued awe for the power of nature as he reached his eighties. His subjects were also drawn from childhood memories, religion and mythology. Together, this group of work portrays an artist and a man confronting his own mortality.

Born in Russia, Rothbort came to America in 1904 and started painting in 1909. Exhibiting in the teens and twenties with the Society of Independent Artists, the Salons of America and the Brooklyn Society of Artists, he gained early recognition with his oil paintings and sculpture. His work has been exhibited widely in galleries and museums, even in *The Rothbort's Home-Museum of Direct Art*, which opened in 1948.

Title: *Twilight Fantasies*

Dates: **9 September - 11 October 2003**

#