

Peter Blume



Biography

Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis was the first retrospective of the American artist Peter Blume (1906–1992) since 1976. Organized by Robert Cozzolino, Ph.D., Senior Curator of Modern Art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the exhibition revealed Blume's central role in the development of American modernism and examined the artist's impact on late 20th-century narrative painting. The exhibition was shown at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art from July 3 to September 20, 2015.

Peter Blume: Nature and Metamorphosis also considered Blume's relationships with a community of artists and writers, many of whom were friends and neighbors in Sherman, Connecticut, where he settled in 1930.

In addition to the paintings and drawings by Blume that appeared in *Nature and Metamorphosis*, the Wadsworth Atheneum presented a selection of works from its permanent collection titled, *Visions from Home: Surrealism in Connecticut*—a companion installation of works by important artists with whom Blume had close ties and regular contact in Connecticut. This included the American artists Alexander Calder and Kay Sage, and European painters Arshile Gorky and Yves Tanguy. Taken together, this pairing of Blume's works with that of his peers invited visitors to explore how this artistic circle—which also extended to writers, poets, collectors and important art dealers—exchanged ideas and influenced one another and how the environment of Connecticut directly impacted their work.