



Arthur Dove:
Full Circle

Dove



Arthur Dove

*I look at nature, I see myself.
Paintings are mirrors, so is nature.*
- Arthur Dove

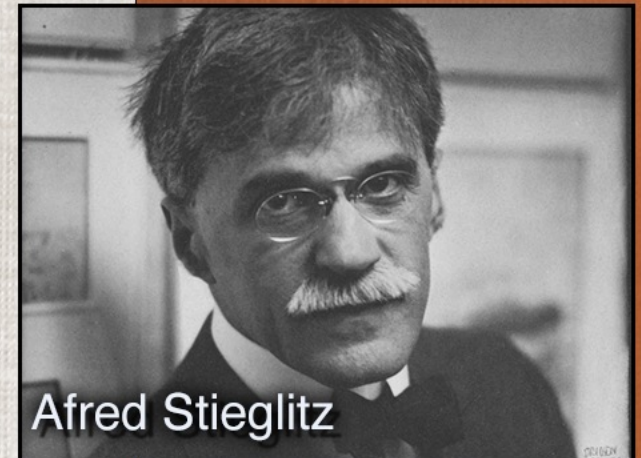
1903: Arthur Dove walks away from the hallowed halls of Cornell University, ready to begin a new chapter in his life. He has made up his mind. Leaving behind the expectations of his family who encouraged him to pursue a career in law, Dove embarks on a journey that, much like the Wright Brothers' first flight the same year, takes him into uncharted territory. A place where he will create his own indelible mark on the future, in the ephemeral and elusive world of art.

The Film

“Arthur Dove: *Full Circle*” will be a high definition 50-minute documentary, produced by the Prime Time Emmy Award-winning team at Austin Street Productions. Prospective outlets span all formats, including licensing to networks (e.g. BBC, PBS, History Channel), streaming and worldwide distribution.

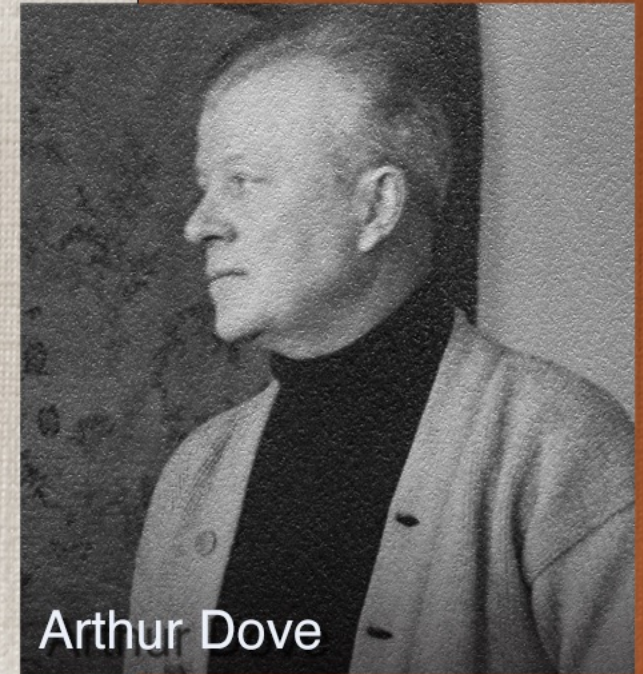
The film provides a unique prism into one of America's most significant, yet under-celebrated artists, Arthur Garfield Dove. Over the course of the film, we will delve into the life of America's first abstract artist whose legacy has been largely lost to history.

While Dove's impact is significant, it is ironic that while many of his close friends and colleagues including Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Stieglitz have become American icons, Dove's star never flared. This film will shine a light on the profound imprint he made upon the world of art.



Arthur Dove followed his passion at the cost of his bank account and family relationships. He struggled in poverty for more than three decades while still producing unique, transcendent works of art.

Experts, artists, collectors, Dove family members and even meteorologists will illuminate Dove's groundbreaking accomplishments and explain his importance to the genesis of the modernist art movement. Archival footage will be used to evoke the times Dove lived in and was inspired by – his early years in Geneva, New York, his first showing at the Salon D'Automne in Paris in 1908, the Jazz Age in New York City in the 1920s, and the Depression – until his passing in 1946. Stylistic recreations will provide a visual layering evocative of the film's overall look.



Arthur Dove



We'll capture the panoramic beauty of the Finger Lakes region of New York State, where Dove was born and where he first tapped into his affinity with nature, and his talent for painting. In the 1930s, Dove returned to his home in Geneva during a particularly challenging period in his life. It was there—back where he began his journey—that he produced some of the most pivotal paintings of his life.

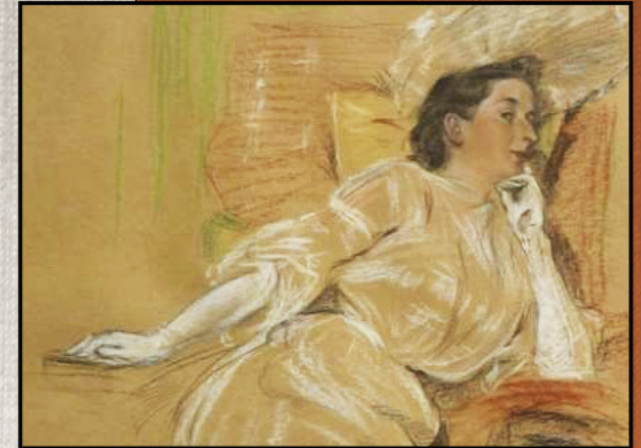
In retrospect, Dove's work can be seen as the inspiration for a generation of abstract artists such as Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner.

“Arthur Dove: *Full Circle*” is the incredible story of the trials and tribulations that one man underwent to share his distinctive brilliance with the world.



BIO

Arthur Garfield Dove (1880-1946) is widely considered to be the first American abstract artist. Raised in Geneva, New York, he spent his youth exploring the outdoors, fishing, hunting, and drawing in the Finger Lakes region. After college Dove moved to New York City, finding work as an illustrator for *Harper's Magazine* and the *Saturday Evening Post*. His father did not approve of this choice, preferring that Arthur become a lawyer or join the family's successful brick manufacturing business. In 1904, Dove travelled to Paris with his wife Florence Dorsey, immersing himself in the Post Impressionist art scene. Upon his return to New York City in 1907, he began producing paintings that departed from the fashionable style and vernacular of the time.



Dove was passionate about expressing deep connections to nature through what he called extraction. He debuted his first works at an exhibition in New York City. This original, Modernist approach was called “A new language of painting” by critic and poet Harriet Monroe. Dove’s father came to the exhibit and was mortified. He disinherited his son shortly thereafter.

Dove chose his own path and soldiered on without financial or moral support from his family. He and his wife and young son moved to Connecticut and tried farming to make ends meet. There, their marriage began to dissolve. Dove eventually found his soul mate in painter Helen “Reds” Torr. Both he and Reds left their spouses and lived and painted together. Dove’s wife wouldn’t grant him a divorce. Florence died in 1932 and Arthur married Reds that same year.



Helen Torr

Dove was an artist, a naturalist, and fascinated by science. He believed that art was "...the form the idea takes in the imagination, rather than the form as it exists outside." His work navigates the intersection of art and nature, light and color. He saw a unity between art and music, and his work in the late 1920s reflected the rhythms and speed of early twentieth century culture.

While Dove did not achieve fame and fortune in his lifetime, his work is included in collections of major museums in the United States and abroad; and one of his paintings recently sold at auction for \$7.8 million.





“The way you see nature depends on whatever has influenced your way of seeing. I think it was Arthur Dove who affected my start, who helped me to find something of my own”.

- Georgia O’Keeffe

Time to Unveil

Dove’s extraordinary journey is not just the story of a talented artist but a truly inspiring saga of one person following their passion while overcoming formidable obstacles, forging his place in history along the way.

Arthur Dove has been on the back page for decades; it is time that we celebrate his life, the integrity of his work, and his undeniable status as a pioneer of American Modernism.

It is Arthur Dove’s time.

