The Michigan Art Gallery at Schmidt's Antiques

5138 West Michigan Avenue

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

michiganartgallery.com

Opening November 20, 2026

Gerome Kamrowski: An Exhibition & Sale of Works from 1938-2003

The Michigan Art Gallery at Schmidt's Antiques is pleased to present an exhibition and sale of over 50 works by Gerome Kamrowski spanning 1938-2003, drawn from the Gerome Kamrowski Estate.

Gerome Kamrowski (1914-2004) was a First Generation New York School artist whose experiments with Surrealist automatism helped form the foundation of Abstract Expressionism. During the winter of 1940-41, he worked with William Baziotes and Jackson Pollock on a collaborative painting using poured and dripped paint. His drawings appeared in *VVV*, and he exhibited at Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century in 1943 and participated in the 1947 International Surrealist Exhibition in Paris.

After joining the University of Michigan faculty in 1946, Kamrowski continued those experimental principles in Ann Arbor through increasingly varied materials and structures, including geodesic paintings and domes, space grids, and sculpture.

Many of these works are returning to the Ann Arbor area for the first time in decades, while others are being shown here for the first time.

Opening Reception: Friday, November 20, 2026 / 6-9 PM

Opening Weekend: Saturday, November 21, 9 AM-5 PM / Sunday, November 22, 11 AM-5 PM

On view through December 2026

Works will be available for purchase in the gallery and online at michiganartgallery.com.

Access note: The exhibition takes place in a converted 1910s barn without elevator access. For access questions or assistance, email info@schmidtsantiques.com or call 734-434-2660.

CONTACT

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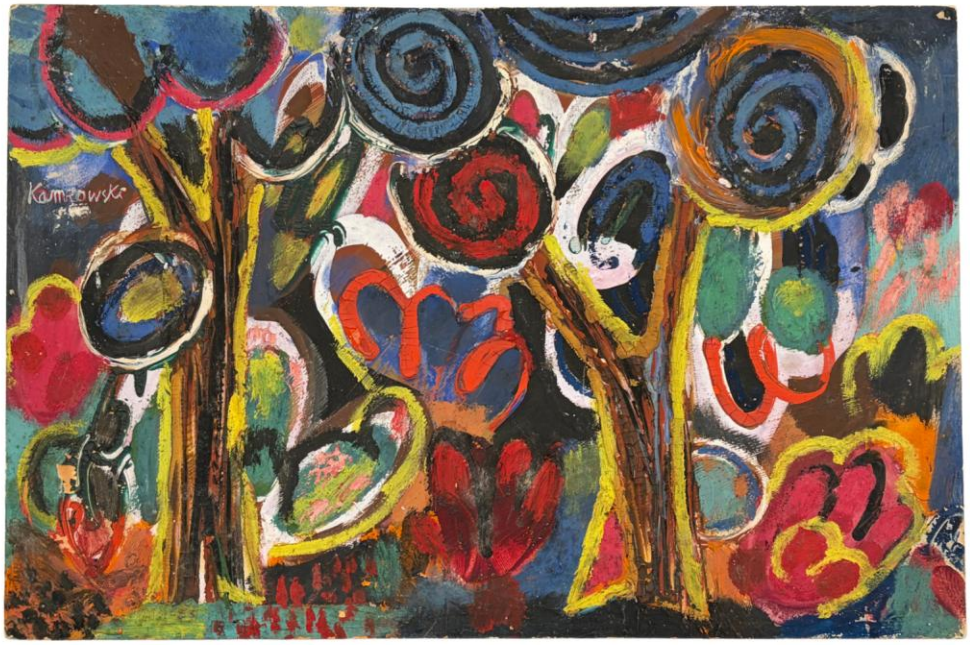
ABOUT MICHIGAN ART GALLERY

Michigan Art Gallery was founded by Schmidt's Antiques Inc. in 2018. It features original works by significant Michigan artists from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, available for viewing and purchase.

SELECTED WORKS - PARTIAL LISTING

1938-1943

The following works represent a partial selection from the exhibition.



Woodscape, 1940. Gouache on board; 14.25 x 9.25 in.

Exhibited at New York's Pinacotheca in June 1941 as part of "First One Man Shows: Gerome Kamrowski and Basil Camino," a significant early New York presentation of Kamrowski's work.

Fishes, 1938.
Gouache on board; 6.75 x 5.5 in.

Bird Man, 1940.
Ink on paper; 22 x 27 in.

The Devil in Crystal, 1942.
Ink and gouache on board; 9.75 x 8.5 in.

Fossils, 1943.
Shadowbox collage; 15 x 16.25 in.

Blue Triangle #5, 1960.
Acrylic on canvas; 58 x 58 x 58 in.

Exhibited at Gallery Mayer, New York, in 1961. Conceived as a component of Kamrowski's dome project, which drew on Buckminster Fuller's geodesic structures, the triangular painting was designed to join other panels in a suspended structure viewed from below, extending painting into architectural space.

Gerome Kamrowski beneath the painted dome panels.

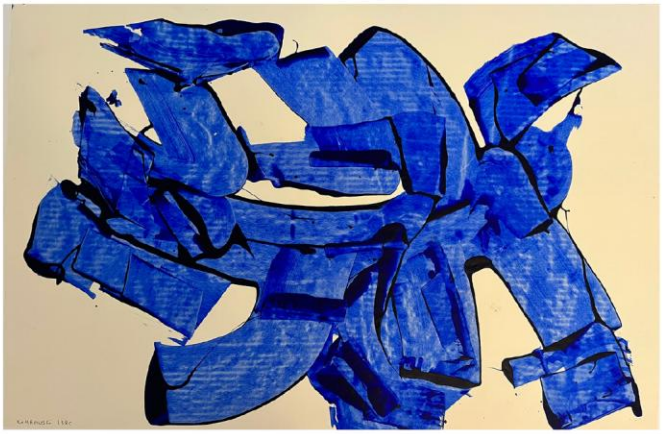
Enclosed, 1961. Acrylic on paper; 33 x 22.5 in.
Exhibited in *Gerome Kamrowski: A Visual Journey*, East Quad Gallery, University of Michigan, 1999.

Disembodied Motion, 1962. Acrylic on paper; 34 x 22.5 in.
Exhibited in *Gerome Kamrowski: Millennium Menagerie*, River Gallery, 2000.

SELECTED WORKS - PARTIAL LISTING

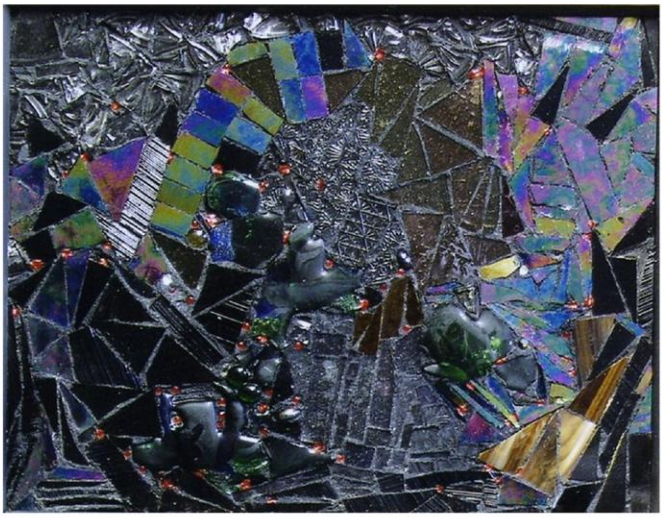
1979-2003

Burnt Orange Seams, 1979.
Acrylic on canvas; 24 x 30 in.



Blue Quarter, 1980.
Acrylic on paper; 36 x 24 in.

Untitled, 1984.
Acrylic on paper; 40 x 26 in.



Dark Angel, 2003. Mosaic; 18 x 12 in.
A late synthesis of Kamrowski's interest in fragmented imagery and constructed surfaces.

This is a partial listing of works included in the exhibition. Additional high-resolution images are available upon request.

Gerome Kamrowski with one of his paintings, Rackham Building, Ann Arbor.
Ann Arbor News, January 1951.

Gerome Kamrowski (1914-2004) was born in Warren, Minnesota, and raised in St. Cloud. He entered the Saint Paul School of Art in 1932, studied briefly at the Art Students League in 1933, and worked on Minnesota WPA mural projects. In 1937 he entered the New Bauhaus in Chicago, studying in the orbit of László Moholy-Nagy and Alexander Archipenko. The following year, despite Hilla Rebay's hostility toward Surrealism, a fellowship she arranged through the Museum of Non-Objective Painting enabled Kamrowski to study with Hans Hofmann in Provincetown. He then moved to New York, where he joined artists testing Surrealist automatism as a route toward abstraction.

In New York, Kamrowski emerged as a First Generation New York School artist, closely connected with William Baziotes, Roberto Matta, Peter Busa, Robert Motherwell, Jackson Pollock, and others working at the intersection of Surrealism and abstraction. During the winter of 1940-41, Kamrowski, Baziotes, and Pollock collaborated on an experimental painting using poured and dripped paint. These experiments helped establish the technical and conceptual ground from which Abstract Expressionism developed. Kamrowski's drawings appeared in *VVV*, and he exhibited at Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century in 1943 and in the 1947 International Surrealist Exhibition in Paris.

Betty Parsons organized Kamrowski's first solo exhibition at the Mortimer Brandt Gallery in 1946. His 1950 Paris exhibition at Galerie R. Creuze was introduced by André Breton, who praised "the quality and sustained character of his research." Kamrowski's emphasis on research-driven experimentation was the principle that sustained his career.

He joined the University of Michigan faculty in 1946 and taught there until 1982. Geographically settled in Ann Arbor but artistically unaffiliated, he found a productive kind of conceptual homelessness. He said that he was "not trapped into one style," and continued to extend the freedom of automatism across painting, works on paper, shaped supports, construction, architecture, geodesic paintings and domes, space grids, and sculpture. He organized the Hylozoist Group in 1958, bringing together artists interested in form as active, mutable, and responsive rather than fixed.

The University of Michigan Museum of Art organized a retrospective in 1983 and The Worlds of Gerome Kamrowski: Surrealism and Beyond in 2003. Across those decades, the later work remained continuous with the early work's investment in chance, transformation, material behavior, and the instability of form. His mosaics and animal forms are among the final manifestations of a much broader practice in which no single medium or signature style was allowed to become an endpoint. Kamrowski died in Ann Arbor in 2004.

Selected Solo and Focused Exhibitions (Partial List):

- **1941** The Pinacotheca, New York, NY
- **1946** Mortimer Brandt Gallery, New York, NY
- **1948** Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- **1950** Galerie R. Creuze, Paris, France
- **1950** Hugo Gallery, New York, NY
- **1954** Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw, MI
- **1956** Battle Creek Civic Art Center, Battle Creek, MI
- **1957** Galerie R. Creuze, Paris, France
- **1959** Alexander Iolas Gallery, New York, NY
- **1961** Gallery Mayer, New York, NY
- **1961** University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1966** The Scarab Club, Detroit, MI
- **1968** Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI
- **1976** Gallery 2269, Chicago, IL
- **1978** Monique Knowlton Gallery, New York, NY
- **1980** Dreyfuss Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1983** University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1985** C. Corcoran Gallery, Muskegon, MI
- **1986** G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, Detroit, MI
- **1987** Washburn Gallery, New York, NY
- **1988** Robert Kidd Gallery, Birmingham, MI
- **1989** Holland Area Arts Council, Holland, MI
- **1990** Detroit Focus Gallery, Detroit, MI
- **1990** Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1991** Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1993** Mott Community College, Flint, MI
- **1995** Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1997** Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1999** East Quad Art Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- **1999** River Gallery, Chelsea, MI
- **2002** Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, Tarpon Springs, FL
- **2003** University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI
- **2005** Weinstein Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- **2006** Weinstein Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- **2019** Michigan Art Gallery, Ypsilanti, MI
- **2024** Lincoln Glenn Gallery, New York, NY

Selected Public and Institutional Collections (Partial List):

- Albion College, Albion, MI
- Ann Arbor District Library, Ann Arbor, MI
- Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (historic collection)
- Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
- Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, MI
- Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
- Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
- Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN
- The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC
- The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
- The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC
- Ross Art Collection, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI
- University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, NM
- Weatherspoon Art Museum, UNC, Greensboro, NC
- Weisman Art Museum, UM, Minneapolis, MN
- Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
- Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA
- Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ