

**PRESS RELEASE**

**ALICE NEEL: MEN IN SUITS  
Paintings from the 1950's to 1980's**

**Also on view: AUGUST SANDER  
Photographs of Businessmen, Entrepreneurs and  
Industrialists from the 1920's & 1930's**

*Funny, y'know? After all the highways, and trains, and  
the appointments, and the years, you end up worth more  
dead than alive.*

- Willy Loman, in "Death of a Salesman" by Arthur Miller, 1949

We are pleased to announce an exhibition of paintings of MEN IN SUITS by **Alice Neel** (1900-1984). Included are paintings from the artist's Estate never before exhibited. Following is an excerpt from the text that accompanies the exhibition by Richard Marshall:

"Alice Neel presented a varied and renowned pantheon of late twentieth century personalities during her distinguished career. And as the recognition of her importance in the history of art continues to increase, so do the reputations of many of her subjects. A surprising number of Neel's portraits include men costumed in the uniform of American business and middleclass respectability – the suit.

Although Neel stated that, "I looked around and the world and its people terrified and fascinated me. I was attracted by the morbid and excessive and everything connected with death, " not all of her suited men reflect the depressed and forlorn dilemma of Willy Loman. Alice Neel's men in suits, however, clearly document an era in American history dominated by the ascension of business, finance, and corporate power, and reveal her astute recognition of important aspects of identity, role playing, and self-concept.

For Neel, suits represent an enforced identity that often stifles the individual personality regardless of age, race, or career. Her men in suits include art world professionals – museum director *Jack Baur* (1974), art gallery owner *Harold Reed* (1970), and art critics *Gregory Battock and David Bourdon* (1970); leaders of the civil rights movement – *Hugh Hurd* (1964), and *James Farmer* (1964); and members of the financial community – *Walter Gutman* (1965), and *Timothy Collins* (1971).”

Also on view will be photographs by **August Sander** (1876-1964). Sander set out to document all “types” of humanity in pre-war Germany in his portfolio *Citizens of the Twentieth Century*. As a complimentary exhibition to the Neel paintings, these photographs focus on the suited professional: industrialists, entrepreneurs and businessmen. Looking at these photographs the sitters’ identity fluctuates between the individual and the given occupations.

Both exhibitions will be on view from Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1998, with an opening reception from 6 to 8 o’clock on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information, please contact Kristin Peterson or Mary Doerhoefer at Cheim & Read (212) 242-7727.