

## Arbit Blatas

Arbit Blatas was born in Kaunas Lithuania, to Russian parents. He studied in Russia at a school for artistically gifted children and later at the Academy in Berlin. By the age of fifteen he was exhibiting artwork in his native country.

In 1929 he began to exhibit regularly at the Salon D Automne and the Salon des Tuileries in Paris. At the age of twenty-one, he became the youngest member of the School of Paris and a friend and colleague to many of the great figures in the Parisian art world such as Vlaminck, Utrillo, Soutine, Picasso, Derain and Matisse. Blatas eventually painted or sculpted them all and his forty-nine portraits in oil and bronze are considered a unique document of that period in Paris.

Blatas is known for his diverse talents as colourist, draftsman, sculptor and set designer, with his unique expressionist style remaining throughout his career.

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