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## John Graham

Born: 1886 Kiev, Russia

Died: 1961 London, England

### 1887

Born on January 8. Name is originally van Gratianovich Dombrowski. Serves in Russian military during WWI before fleeing to the West.

### 1920

He and his wife, Vera, arrive in New York.

### 1921

Enrolls in the Art Students League and studies under John Sloan along with Alexander Calder, Barnett Newman, and Adolph Gottlieb.

### 1924

Marries Elinor Gibson using the name Ivan Graham Dabrowsky.

### 1925

Sends two portraits to the Ninth Annual Exhibition of the Society of Independent Artists. Two still lifes are also accepted into the Tenth Annual Whitney Studio Club held at Anderson Galleries on Park Avenue at 59th Street. John and Elinor relocate to Baltimore, Maryland, using their apartment as exhibition space for the Friends of Art. It is also during this time that the Grahams meet the Cone sisters, collectors of avant-garde European art.

### 1926

Becomes an American citizen. During the 1920s, he exhibits at the Whitney Museum, the Society of Independent Artists, the National Academy of Design, the Carnegie Institute, and at Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Art in Philadelphia. Around this time, the Cone sisters begin to purchase his work. The prestigious New York galleries of E. Weythe and Dudensing represent his work.

### 1927

Duncan Phillips makes his first purchase of Graham's work.

### 1928

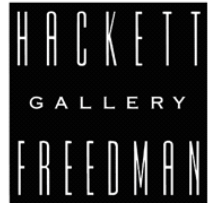
Travels in Italy and France, spending time with Stuart Davis.

### 1929

First solo museum exhibition at the Phillips Collection.

### 1932–33

Spends two summers vacationing at Bolton Landing, New York, near David Smith. Graham becomes politically active, participating in the Reed Club in New York even though he was anti-Bolshevik while in Russia.



**1937**

Publishes *System & Dialectics of Art*, a book that would become the leading manifesto for vanguard artists. During the 1930s, continues to exhibit at the Whitney Museum, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, and with the Society of Independent Artists. It is also during this time that Frank Crowninshield, editor of *Vanity Fair*, suggests that he amass a collection of African art. Becomes an associate professor at Wells College in Aurora, New York.

**1942**

Organizes a group exhibit at McMillen, Inc. This is the first showing of Jackson Pollock's work.

**1946**

Exhibits portraits inspired by Renaissance masters at Rose Fried's Pinacotheca Gallery in New York. From this point on, concentrates on portraiture, becoming interested in ancient Greek concepts of beauty into the 1950s.

**1961**

Graham dies on June 27, in London.