

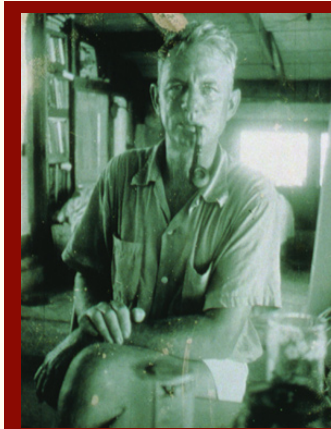


Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies ■ Extension Division

Psychoanalysis and the Arts

Forrest Bess: Art, Sex, and Madness

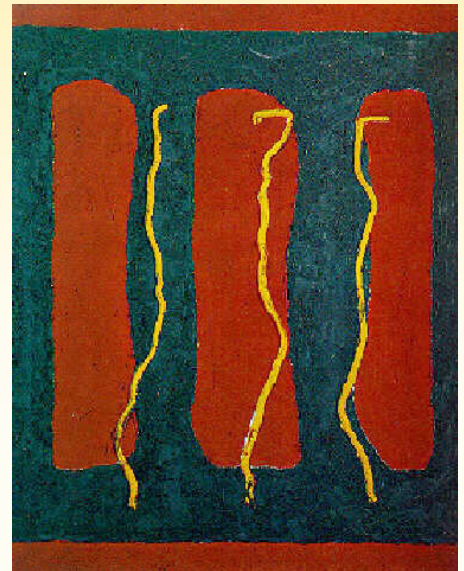
FORREST BESS (1911-1977) lived most of his life as a bait fisherman on a remote bayou on the Gulf Coast of Texas. In the two-room shack that served as his studio, he produced a unique body of work as a painter, describing himself as a “visionary” artist and



Bess in his workshop

his tiny canvases as “abstract primitive.” He was discovered by the pioneer New York art dealer Betty Parsons and showed alongside Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko, among other notable Abstract Expressionists. Considering himself a “peculiar type of homosexual,”

he became obsessed with becoming a hermaphrodite and had two genital surgeries to enable him to be sexually penetrated by another man. This talk presents his art, tells the story of his life, and describes his progression from obsession to delusional insanity. Dr Poser's presentation is based on his recently published e-book, *Though This Be Madness*.



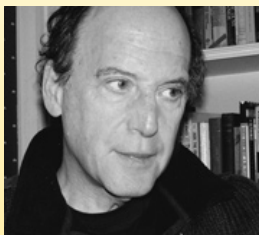
Title: #7, 1957, size: 20 in. x 20.1 in.

■ **Friday, November 14, 2014 · 7:30-9:30 PM** ■

CMPS, 16 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10011

This event is open to clinicians and the public at no charge and is followed by a social gathering.

For information or to RSVP: 212.260.7050 · www.cmps.edu · cmps@cmps.edu



STEVEN POSER, PhD, LP is a faculty member and training analyst at CMPS. He has contributed articles and reviews to the journal *Modern Psychoanalysis*, including “Finding a Shape: The Creation of Psychic Structure in a Psychoanalytic Setting” and “The Unconscious Motivation to Become a Murderer in Camus’ *The Stranger*.” An exhibiting painter since 1991, Dr Poser has shown in twelve one-person and fourteen group shows. In 1997, he received the *Gradiva Award* in painting from NAAP, and in 1998 was Visiting Artist at the Boston University College of Fine Arts. He is a psychoanalyst in NYC and has a studio in the Hudson Valley.

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

The Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies (CMPS) is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to offer continuing education for psychologists. The Center maintains responsibility for this program and its content. CMPS is also an approved provider of continuing education under the auspices of the Continuing Education Program of the New York State Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) ■ Educational Objectives: Participants will 1) become acquainted with the artist's work, the story of his life, and the development and progression of his sexual obsession; and 2) consider and describe the psychological complexity of wishing to transform one's body into that of the opposite sex, of the hermaphrodite as embodying the ideal state of being human, and of the sanity of wishing to alter one's body in accordance with a transgender sense of sexual identity ■ Instructional Level: Introductory-Intermediate

■ Target Audience: clinicians, mental health practitioners, and the public. No APA CE credits are offered. For information: 212.260.7050 · cmps@cmps.edu · www.cmps.edu.