



*Ouro Preto #3*

**Karl Zerbe**

Acrylic collage on canvas, 1964

Gift of Maria Zerbe Norton



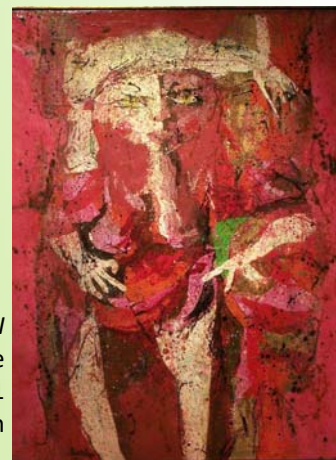
### Karl Zerbe (1903-1972)

Karl Zerbe was born in Berlin, Germany in 1903 and fled political persecution to the United States during World War II. From 1937 to 1954, he was Head of the Painting Department at the Museum School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Massachusetts, and in this capacity introduced students to the work of the prominent German Expressionists.

Karl Zerbe achieved national recognition in the 1940s as part the first generation of Boston Expressionists. This group's art was shockingly different from the genteel work of older established Boston artists. Although the Boston Expressionists differed stylistically from one another, they were linked by their interest in humanism as they perceived it in their surroundings in Boston. Their work was the beginning of a long tradition of humanist expressive work in Boston.

### Collection Connection

Karl Zerbe's paintings are in the collections of over 50 major museums in the United States including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Chicago Art Institute and the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art. Zerbe's daughter, Maria Zerbe Norton, was the Education Coordinator at the Muscatine Art Center from 1997 to 2010. Norton gifted five works by Karl Zerbe to enrich the Muscatine Art Center's collection. Norton's own work shows a fascination with watercolor and experimentation. By combining water-based and mixed media, she pushes watercolors to its limits. Norton's award-winning art has been displayed in juried exhibitions in several states.



*Variations on a Caribbean Theme III*  
Karl Zerbe  
Acrylic collage on canvas, 1961  
Gift of Maria Zerbe Norton