



THE ART NEWSPAPER

REVIEW



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Coming in from the cold: eastern European AbEx



Untitled (1959) by the Croatian artist Edo Murtic

PAINTINGS PRODUCED BY Abstract Expressionist artists living in Central and Eastern Europe in the 1950s and 60s are on show at the Steinberg Museum of Art (part of Long Island University, New York). The exhibition reveals how individual artists in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland and Romania were able to break with the trend for Socialist Realist painting, dictated by their communist governments, to create canvases mirroring work made by US artists such as Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko.

The art critic Barbara Rose notes that this work was produced "on the heels of the MoMA international show, The New American Painting ... which travelled Europe in 1959-60". She draws a sharp contrast with US cultural diplomacy now: "Today we do nothing!"

Richard Unwin

• Abstract Expressionism Behind the Iron Curtain, Steinberg Museum of Art, Brookville, New York, until 7 April