

**March 27, 2019 6:00 PM Hayden-Clark Alumni Center, Bradley University**  
**"It's Always Myself That I Paint" – The Work & Life of Gertrude Abercrombie**  
Susan Weininger, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Art History, Roosevelt University, Chicago

Gertrude Abercrombie was an American painter known for her modestly scaled Surrealist works. Abercrombie's motifs included owls, moonlit landscapes, and cats, which she painted in a controlled palette of colors. Born in 1909 in Austin, TX, her parents worked for an opera company that traveled around America and Europe. Her family returned to the United States from Berlin after the outbreak of World War I, eventually settling in Chicago. She went on to study languages at the University of Illinois and attended classes at the School of the Art Institute Chicago. During the 1930s, Abercrombie became friends with a number of jazz musicians including Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, and often hosted music sessions and parties in her home. Though Abercrombie didn't pay much attention to the art of her time, she did cite René Magritte as an important influence on her practice.

*The lecture is sponsored by Fine Arts Society of Peoria, Bradley University Department of Art and Design, and Illinois Women Artists Project.*



Gertrude Abercrombie (1909 -1977)  
*Portrait of My Sister*, 1941, oil on canvas  
Collection of the Art Institute of Chicago, Gift of Powell and Barbara Bridges

