

# The New Criterion

## Features

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## The age of the émigrés,

by [Hilton Kramer](#)

On Exiles & Emigrés: The Flight of European Artists from Hitler at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Although the role played by European émigrés in reshaping American cultural life in the 1930s and 1940s has long been recognized in this country as an historical development of immense intellectual consequence, the exhibition which Stephanie Barron has organized at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art this spring under the title "Exiles and Emigrés: The Flight of European Artists from Hitler,"<sup>[1]</sup> is the first event of its kind to concentrate on the work these artists produced during their period of exile and its impact on American thinking about art. In the exhibition's book-length catalogue, the scope of the inquiry is expanded to encompass some of the émigré writers, musicians, art historians, art dealers, and museum curators who also exerted a significant influence on modern cultural life in this country. In both the exhibition and its ambitious catalo ...

Hilton Kramer is the editor and publisher of *The New Criterion*, which he founded with the late Samuel Lipman in 1982. Since 1987, he has also been the art critic for the weekly *New York Observer*, and for many years has written the "Critic's Notebook" column in *Art & Antiques* magazine. His "Media Watch" column was published weekly in *The New York Post* from 1993 to November 1997. Mr. Kramer was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1928. He studied at Syracuse University (B.A., 1950), and in the graduate schools of Columbia University, Harvard University, Indiana University (School of Letters), and the New School for Social Research. He has served on the faculties of Indiana University, Bennington College, the University of Colorado, and Yale University. He has lectured widely at museums and universities in this country and abroad. He began publishing literary criticism in 1950, art criticism in 1953. Over the years he has contributed to *Commentary*, *The New Republic*, *National Review*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The American Scholar*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *The American Spectator*, *Partisan Review*, *Modern Painters*, *The Boston Globe*, the *London Times Literary Supplement*, and the *London Sunday Telegraph*. Mr. Kramer has been the editor of *Arts Magazine*, and the art critic of *The Nation*. In 1965 he joined the staff of *The New York Times* as art news editor. He was appointed chief art critic of the *Times* in 1973, and remained in that position until he resigned in 1982 to become the editor of *The New Criterion*. Mr. Kramer is the author of two volumes of criticism--*The Age of the Avant-Garde* (1973) and *The Revenge of the Philistines* (1985)--and of critical monographs on the art of Milton Avery, Gaston Lachaise, and Richard Lindner. He is the editor of *The New Criterion Reader* (1988), and co-editor (with Roger Kimball) of *Against the Grain: The New Criterion on Art and Intellect at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1995), *The Future of the European Past* (1997). Mr. Kramer's most recent book, *The Twilight of the Intellectuals: Culture*

*and Politics in the Era of the Cold War*, was published by Ivan R. Dee in April 1999. He is currently at work on *Abstract Art: A Cultural History*. Mr. Kramer serves on the board of trustees of the New York Studio School.

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