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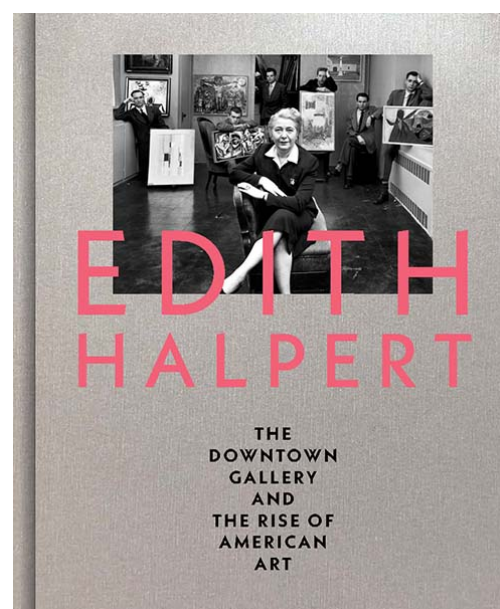
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**The fascinating story of an art-world tastemaker who marketed, promoted,  
and effectively defined American art in the 20th century**

***Exhibition Schedule***

**The Jewish Museum, New York**  
(October 18, 2019–February 9, 2020)

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
is pleased to announce the publication of

## **Edith Halpert, the Downtown Gallery, and the Rise of American Art**

**Rebecca Shaykin**

The question “What is American art?” might conjure the hyperrealism of Raphaele Peale and William Harnett, the bold graphic style of Stuart Davis and Jacob Lawrence, or the Precisionist forms of Charles Sheeler. Little known, however, is that such notions of American art are significantly owed to a Russian Jewish immigrant named Edith Halpert. The founder of the Downtown Gallery in New York in 1926, Halpert shaped an identity for American art, declaring that its thrilling heterogeneity and democratic values were what most distinguished it from the European avant-garde.

For forty-plus years, Halpert’s gallery brought recognition and market success to now-legendary American artists—among them Arthur Dove, Marsden Hartley, and Georgia O’Keeffe, in addition to the artists mentioned above. She relentlessly championed nonwhite, female, and unknown artists and was a formative advisor in the shaping of many of the nation’s most celebrated art museums and collections, from San Francisco to Boston. Not content with those achievements, she also pioneered the appreciation and collecting of American folk art.

Richly illustrated with works that passed through her groundbreaking gallery, this book tells the extraordinary and largely overlooked story of her career and legacy. The artists Halpert launched into the American canon are household names—and this book compellingly argues that hers should be, as well.

**Rebecca Shaykin** is associate curator at the Jewish Museum, New York.

***Exhibition:*** Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art

The book accompanies the exhibition *Edith Halpert and the Rise of American Art*, the first to explore the remarkable career of Edith Halpert (1900-1970), on view at the Jewish Museum in New York City from October 18, 2019 through February 9, 2020. A pioneer in the field and the first significant female gallerist in the United States, Halpert propelled American art to the fore at a time when the European avant-garde still enthralled the world. With her revolutionary program at the Downtown Gallery, her endless energy, and her extraordinary business acumen, Halpert inspired generations of Americans to value the art of their own country, in their own time.

The exhibition will feature nearly 100 works of American modern and folk art, including paintings, sculptures, and prints by artists such as Stuart Davis, Jacob Lawrence, Georgia O'Keeffe, Ben Shahn, and Charles Sheeler, among others, and prime examples of American folk art portraits, weathervanes, trade signs, and carved toys. Along with major artworks that were exhibited at and sold through the Downtown Gallery, highlights from Halpert's acclaimed personal collection of both modern and folk art, reassembled for the first time since its landmark sale in 1973, will also be on view.

**Published in association with the Jewish Museum, New York**

*Edith Halpert, the Downtown Gallery, and the Rise of American Art* \* By Rebecca Shaykin \* \$50.00

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