

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Jaap Wagemaker  
**Title:** *Untitled*  
**Medium:** lithograph  
**Dimensions:** 54cm x 53cm  
**Notes:** signed: Jaap Wagemaker  
purchased from the artist, Amsterdam, 1964

b.Haarlem, 1906 d. 1972, Amsterdam

Adrian Barend 'Jaap' Wagemaker was a prominent matter painter and sculptor from the Netherlands. From 1920, Wagemaker trained in Haarlem, at the School voor Bouwkunde, Versierende Kunsten en Kunsambachten. Though Wagemaker was very interested in painting, it was not an option for him at this school and he went in to the decorative arts sector. Wagemaker attempted to gain some Fine Art training through a scholarship to the National Academy in Amsterdam but he was rejected by the programme and as a result he was self-taught as a painter. In this early period, Wagemaker's painting was expressionist in style, showing the influences of Constant Permeke and Herman Kruidier.

From 1889-1965, Wagemaker would make regular trips to Paris with the Dutch landscape painter, Piet van Egmond. In 1946, Wagemaker travelled to Amsterdam settling there and becoming interested in the work of the CoBrA painters. He did not join the group but remained close with Anton Rooskens, a founding member of the CoBrA collective. Between living in the artistic centre of Amsterdam and travelling to Paris, Wagemaker came in to contact with many avant-garde forms of painting, and in particular, Matter painting. Matter painting emphasizes the paint as a physical structure; it emerged in Paris in the 1940s and was adopted by a number of European painters (such as Tapies and Marc Mendelsohn) throughout the 50s and 60s. Wagemaker incorporated the ideas behind matter painting in to his own paintings in the mid-1950s, mixing sand in to his paint and using burlap sacking and wood in his works. He first exhibited his new style as a 'matter painter' at the Galerie le Canard and in a group show at Stedelijk Museum, both exhibitions took place in Amsterdam in 1957.

In 1958, the artist spent several months in Paris, taking a studio at the Rue Santeuil where artists Karel Appel, Corneille and Bram Bogart also worked. Wagemaker became fascinated by the textures and forms of organic rock formations, geological processes and dry arid landscapes. This mode of enquiry spurred on his travels and interests in different landscapes and cultures and he began collecting ethnographics. The titles of the works he made at this time were based on topographic conditions.

In 1966, Wagemaker participated in the Venice Biennale and in 1967 a major retrospective of his work was held at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

The information in this article has been taken from Oxford Art Online and the CoBrA museum website.

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This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers  
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