

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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October 18, 1980

ELEANOR ANTINOVA **RECOLLECTIONS OF MY LIFE WITH DIAGHILEV**

October 18 – November 15
Gallery Hours: Monday – Saturday 10-5:30

Recollections of My Life with Diaghilev, an exhibition of drawings and texts by the once celebrated black ballerina of Diaghilev's Ballet Russes, Eleanor Antinova, along with photographs of her in her great roles, opens at the Ronald Feldman Gallery on October 18th.

Madame Antinova's Memoirs draw no comfortable distinctions between the visual, literary and theatre arts. She freely uses whatever materials and techniques are necessary to explore the nature of her experience as a youthful and passionate participant in the turbulent adventures of the Russian Ballet during the 1920's. Constructed of visual and verbal images, it is the personal memoir of a young American dancer living on intimate terms with the homeless Russian artists who often had to endure extreme personal hardship and poverty. The exhibition records the hopes and despairs of youthful artists trying to "make it" in an inhospitable world.

The photographs depict Antinova in the 5 ballets she herself choreographed for the Ballet Russes: L'Esclave, Pocahontas, Prisoner of Persia, The Hebrews, and Before the Revolution. (The last ballet was revived in 1979 by the Ronald Feldman Gallery and The Kitchen Center for Video and Music.) These ballets are a nostalgic record of a lively period 20th century art but are also the touching story of a young artist trying to create "her own art" within a traditional and coercive art scene.