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| Your article |
| Davis, Stuart (1892-1964) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Stuart Davis was a painter, printmaker, muralist, and arts activist who played a prominent role in the development of American Modernism in the first half of the twentieth century. Visually, he brought the formal and technical experimentation of the European avant-garde to depictions of the modernity of the American metropolis. As a prolific writer and powerful spokesman, Davis was a committed cultural advocate, working to explain and defend modern abstract art, promoting artists’ rights, and arguing for the democratization of culture and art’s formative impact on society. Davis’s early style relates to the Ashcan School, an early twentieth-century brand of realism that combines a direct, spontaneous journalistic naturalism with everyday scenes of urban street life. At sixteen years of age, Davis left his native Philadelphia to move to New York City and study art with Robert Henri, one of the best known Ashcan painters. The turning point for the young Davis was the New York Armory Show of 1913. Through the exhibit Davis was exposed to Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, and Dada, and the boldly aggressive plastic elements with the radical approaches to pictorial space left an indelible impression. |
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| Further reading:  (Christ)  (David)  (Hills)  (Lane) |