

Letters from 31 artists to the Albright-Knox Gallery, hg. v. Ethel Moore, Gallery Notes Vol. XXXI, No. 2 und Vol. XXXII, No. 2, 1970, S. 25 (Ein Brief Massons vom August 1968 zu dem Gemälde *Dans la Forêt*, 1944)

MASSON

The forms and colors suggest the *animal* and *vegetable* world. Their amalgam signified for me life in the forest without the human element. (By the way, an American author who at that moment gave me great pleasure was Thoreau with his *Walden, or Life in the Woods*, and I myself was living in very wooded country in Connecticut.

Animal life was persistent in that latter part of my American period, while at my arrival it was rather the secret world of plants: germination. *Dans la Forêt* is somewhat a synthesis of these two elements.

In technique, as in many of my paintings of that period, the style is complex: use of three different materials - tempera, oil and sand, mixed together.

I believe I could say with assurance that my life in America (1941-44) was for me *central* from an artistic standpoint. Although I think of myself as always developing, it was certainly in the United States that I affirmed or aimed at certain lyric and technical *constants* from which I feel I have rarely departed since.

*August, 1968*