

Bailey, William (b. 1930)

Council Bluffs, Iowa

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- BFA and MFA from Yale, studied with abstract artist, Josef Albers but realized that he did not subscribe to the random, spontaneous paint splatters of Abstract Expressionism.
- Traveled to Far East and Europe, influenced by 19th century French painter Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres' tight handling of paint and sense of mystery in Ingres' female nudes.

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Began drawing/painting female nudes. Style controlled and focused, exploring every physical detail.
- Figures presented as objects-no exploration of personality. Realized inanimate objects could be more easily manipulated and removed from their context than human form so still life became focus.
- Still Lifes feature simple, everyday objects deliberately placed against a blank background.
- Uses same objects in different arrangements. Subtle and understated palette.

KIA WORK-*Still Life with Egg Cup, Eggs and Bowl*, oil on canvas, 1968-69

- Egg cup, bowl and eggs are basic geometric forms that have a solid and tangible presence.
- Objects arranged in an open but empty space along a horizontal plane that stresses the flatness of the canvas.
- Works are silent and permanent as he traps these objects in an ordered, airless space.

