

EVA SLATER

Eva Slater was born in Berlin, Germany in 1922 and studied art there until WW2 began. After the war ended she moved to the United States where she worked as a fashion illustrator in New York City. After meeting her husband, John Slater, they moved to Los Angeles, California where she began studying painting at Art Center College of Design. It was there that she met Harry Carmean and Lorser Feitelson and his wife Helen Lundeburg. Feitelson was the founder of the Hard Edge art movement begun in the 1950's in Los Angeles. Slater became an active member of the Hard Edge movement from 1950 through the late 1960's.

Slater's hard edge paintings are characterized by smooth, meticulously painted surfaces with elegant colors, similar in tone to the palette of Helen Lundeburg. Although she was adept at drawing the figure she preferred painting landscapes and astronomical subject matter, as well as creating purely abstract works. Her unique contribution to the hard edge movement was the use of intricate small triangles that would flow across the painting in irregular patterns. She referred to them as being much like "cells" which interlocked and helped to define the structure of the painting. The triangles concept was abandoned in the early sixties and she went on to make a small number of pure hard edge landscapes with large areas of flat color. She stopped painting in the late 1960's and became a scholar and collector of American Indian basketry, writing the book *Panamint Shoshone Basketry, an American Art Form*. (available at the Museum of Natural History).

