

**Jean Fautrier (1898-1964), one of France's notable early twentieth-century artists, remains virtually unknown in the United States. An accomplished painter, printmaker, illustrator and sculptor, he is perhaps best known for his *Otages* (Hostages) series of semi-abstract paintings from the 1940s. During his lifetime, major authors including André Malraux, Jean Paulhan and Francis Ponge wrote about his work. Fautrier is often associated with *art informel*, a European post World War II movement, which included Dubuffet, Wols and others. In 1959 he participated in Documenta II in Kassel, Germany, and in 1960 Fautrier shared the International Grand Prize of the XXX Venice Biennale with Hans Hartung. A year later Fautrier was awarded the International Grand Prize at the 7th Tokyo Biennial. In 1964, noted art critic John Ashbery described Jean Fautrier as France's answer to Jackson Pollock and the New York School.<sup>1</sup> Although widely collected and exhibited in Europe, Fautrier's success in the United States is limited to New York gallery exhibitions in the 1950s and inclusion in Museum collections such as the Menil Collection, Fogg Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and the Haggerty**

