

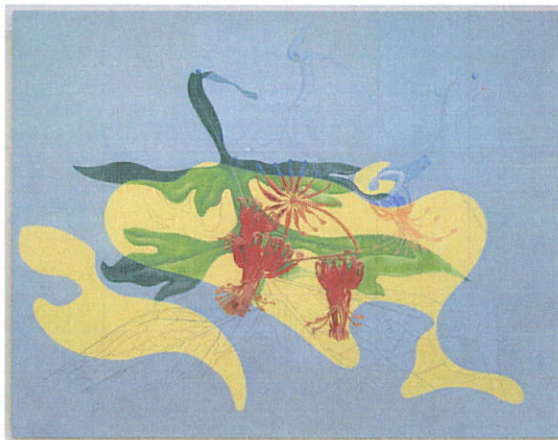
## ***Max Ernst in the Garden of Nymph Ancolie***

The Artist's Only Surviving Mural –  
U.S. Unveiling of the Newly Restored Work

On view at The Menil Collection October 31, 2008 - February 15, 2009

**Exhibition Preview: Thursday, October 30, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**

**Public Program: Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7 pm:**  
**A conversation with Menil director Josef Helfenstein**  
**and art historian William A. Camfield**



Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie (Mural), 1934

Houston, October 7, 2008 -- During the summer of 1934, German-born artist Max Ernst executed a mural for the Dancing Mascotte, the bar at Zürich's Corso Theatre. One of the largest painted works of the artist's seven-decade career, *Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie* (*Petals and Garden of Nymph Ancolie*) adorned a wall of the popular nightspot. Based on an illustration found in a Victorian-era botanical encyclopedia, the surrealist imagery features a dancing bird-like figure emerging from a lush backdrop of red and gold flower petals. Upon completion of the work, a writer for *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* observed: "Max Ernst has created a large fresco in the dancing area of the Corso ... Lines, curves, ornaments intertwine in multifarious ways and in an absolutely planar style ... It is an amusing, vivacious, cheerful ensemble..."