

## **Notes: Nellie and Monk**

From Nat Hentoff's "The Jazz Life": "I used to have a phobia about pictures or anything on a wall hanging just a little bit crooked," she told Hentoff. "Thelonious cured me. He nailed a clock to the wall at a very slight angle, just enough to make me furious. Finally I got used to it. Now anything can hang at any angle and it doesn't bother me at all."

The story has served ever since as a metaphor for Monk's relation to the world, and for his music, in which a pretty melody is set slightly askew by dissonance, or a swinging rhythmic phrase is gapped with an irregular rest.

- Nellie Monk

*This work is intended to hang crooked on a wall.*