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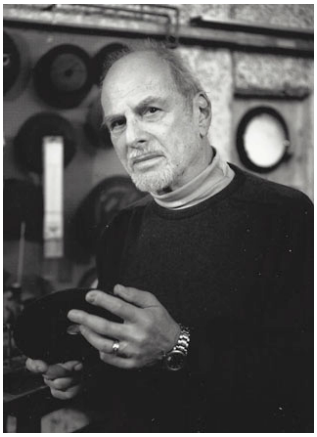
# Art Brenner

(1924 -2013)



Art Brenner, a prolific painter, sculptor, and scholarly writer, was born in New York City in 1924.

Beginning as a painter, his work evolved in a direction that unavoidably led to sculpture. To devote himself to this new development, in 1964 he left New York for Paris where he lived and worked for over forty years. He died in Adelaide, Australia in 2013.

Brenner's first solo show was held in 1967 at the Galerie Lucien Durand in Paris. From then on his work garnered critical acclaim and success, with numerous solo and group exhibitions in cities such as Paris, London, Avignon, Barcelona, Brussels, Brest, Amsterdam, Heidelberg, Montreal, and Adelaide, Australia.

Brenner exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in numerous countries for over 36 years, and participated in more than 60 exhibitions throughout his career. He also received the highest honor as a "Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres"("Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters") in France, bestowed upon individuals who have distinguished themselves by their creativity in the world of art, culture and literature and their contribution to the influence of arts in France and the throughout the world.

He had a long and prestigious career, and continued exhibiting into his nineties. In 1995 he was the subject of a CNN film titled "An American Sculptor in Paris."

One of his best-known articles, entitled "Concerning Sculpture and Architecture," explores the relationship between modern architecture and sculpture. Brenner suggests that monumentality in sculpture was a direct product of Modernist thinking in architecture, and uses this as a call for architects and sculptors to collaborate to create public spaces that are not merely functional, but aesthetically satisfying environments for living. Brenner heeded his own call, and has continued to collaborate with architects to create incredible works in public spaces, and in conjunction with various building projects around the world.

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Though best known for his sculptural work, and written essays and articles on the changing nature of sculpture in society, Brenner was also an astonishingly capable painter. His works created in the 1950s reflect the Abstract Expressionist movement of the time. Although part of that oeuvre, his style is hard to pigeonhole. He clearly has a spatial sensibility to his canvases, but his color is careful, and unflinchingly unique. His works from that time are gestural, with controlled but choppy swaths of color whispering and interrupting each other, creating a vibrant plane of conversation on the canvas. Though they are reminiscent of many other painters of the time, such as Joan Mitchell, Michael Goldberg, Norman Bluhm, Edward Dugmore, John Grillo and even Alma Thomas among others, Brenner brought a spatial awareness that was a departure point for his future years and his life's devotion to sculpture.

Art Brenner's work is present in various public collections and public spaces in Europe and the United States, particularly in France at the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC) Paris and Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, Meudon and also the Art sur l'Autoroute, Spain; the Rose Museum, Waltham, MA; tjhe Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn; and the Museum of History and Art, Anchorage, Alaska, among others.

His work is also present in numerous private collections in France, Germany, Spain, the United States, Australia, Great Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands.