

Art Brenner  
1924-2013

Art Brenner, a prolific painter, sculptor, and scholarly writer, was born in New York City in 1924. He lived and worked in Paris for several decades until his death in Australia in 2013.

Brenner exhibited in solo and group exhibition in numerous countries for over 36 years, and participated in more than 60 exhibitions throughout his career thus far. 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. Brenner’s first solo show was held at Galerie Lucien Durand, in Paris, in 1967, and from then on his acclaimed work became an international success. 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.

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. Though clearly part of one 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, interrupting each other, and 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 life’s devotion to sculpture.

#### Solo Exhibitions

2003 Adelaide (Australia): BMGart Gallery  
2001 Paris: Galerie Agbe & Gbalicam

1996 Menton Menton Museum (retrospective)  
1994 Paris: ASKEO Gallery (on the Workshop)  
1990 Heidelberg Deutsch-Amerikanische Institute  
1980 Paris: Exhibition / Dining UBP  
1978 Rennes: Franco-American Institute  
in 1978 Brest Museum of Brest  
1976 Adelaide, Australia: Osborne Art Gallery  
1974 Amsterdam: Galerie Siau  
1971 Amsterdam: Galerie Siau  
1967 Paris: Galerie Lucien Durand

### Shows

Salon de Mai, Paris: 2005, 2008  
New Realities, Paris: 1968, 1972-74, 1984-85, 1995-2004  
and the Great Exhibition of Youth Today, Paris: 1980-1988, 1990, 1993  
Sacred Art Exhibition / Spiritual Expression, Paris: 1975, 1980 to 1985  
Salon de la Jeune Sculpture, Paris: 1966-1969, 1971, 1975-1979

### Collections

France: National Contemporary Art Fund: 1976, 1982, 1985  
Sports Museum  
Museum of Vernon

Spain: Art on Highway

USA: Rose Museum, Waltham, Mass.  
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn.  
Museum of History and Art, Anchorage Alaska

Brenner's work is a part of private collections in France, Germany, Spain, the United States, Australia, England, Belgium and the Netherlands

### Movies

"Art Brenner, Sculptor" by Ed Marcus, 1972 (14 minutes)  
"An American Sculptor in Paris" CNN 1995 (3 minutes)

### References

Arte en la Autopista, Fondation Abertis, Spain 2007  
The Sculptors Metal Dominique Dalemont, Somogy, Paris 2006  
Sculpture Steel, Philippe Clérin, Dessain and Tolra, Paris 1993  
City of Paris, No. 52, March 1984  
Profile, March- April 1980  
Outdoor Sculpture-Object and Environment, Margaret A. Robinette,  
Whitney Library of Design, New York 1976

## Articles

- "Concerning Sculpture and Architecture", Leonardo, Vol. 4 (1971)
- "The Role of Sculpture Humanizing" AIA Journal (September 1973)
- "The Urban Environment: The Role of Sculpture in Architecture", Art and Australia (July / September, 1976)
- "The Structuralism of Claude Levi-Strauss and the Visual Arts, " Leonardo, Vol. 10 (1977)

## Honors

- Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters (France)

## Exhibitions

- 2008 South Australia: Palmer Sculpture Biennial
- 2008 Issy-les-Moulineaux: Johnson & Johnson
- in 2007 Andrésy: Sculptures in the Ile-
- 2006 Vernon: "This Summer, You Look Art"
- in 2005 Andrésy: Sculptures-en-Ile
- Angers 2003: Treasures of the twentieth century Collections angevines
- 2003 Paris: Architects in Nature
- in 2003 Paris: Architects Present at
- 2002 Paris: Architects Present at
- Menton in 2001: Self-Portraits of Artists
- 2000 Paris: Architects Present at
- 1998 Paris: Architects to Present
- 1998 Angers: Contemporary Prints
- Paris 1997: American Artists in France (Mona Bismarck Foundation)
- 1997 Paris: Architects Present at
- 1996 Paris: Architects Present at
- 1995 Brussels: Monumental Meise
- 1995 Rambouillet: Art Actuel
- Fursac 1994: Art and Nature in Limousin
- Lezoux 1989: IV ° Art Fair
- 1989 Avranches Avranches Museum: "American Artists in France in 1989,"
- Paris 1989: "Blue, White, Red: Colors of Liberty"
- Paris 1988: The Blue Day - Tribute to Iris Clert
- 1988 Anchorage Alaska: Museum of History and Art: "Art in Public Works"
- Montreuil 1987: Meeting
- in 1986 Paris: La Villette: Sculptures Metal
- Paris 1986: Château de la Muette
- in 1986 Sophia Antipolis: Contemporary Jewelry
- Lyon 1986: Architecture and Font
- 1985 Paris: Concierge: A Monumental Lightness
- Rennes 1984: From the Sport Chair Rail (Sports Museum)
- Châteaudun 1983: Aspects of Contemporary Sculpture
- 1982 Paris: Galerie Esplanade Defense: International Collection
- 1982 London: The Halpern Partnership

Evry 1982: Exhibition and Art Metal  
1982 Croissy-sur-Seine: Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition  
1982 Ste-Geneviève-des-Bois: Monumental Sculptures  
1981 La Rochelle: Metal Sculpture  
1980 The Revel New Town: International Sculpture Exhibition  
1980 Parly II: '80 Art  
Paris 1979: CNAC Georges Pompidou: Art on Highway  
1978 Paris: National Foundation for Graphic and Plastic Arts: Art and the City -  
Art in Life  
1977 Paris: Gallery of the University: "Three Sculptors Americans"  
in 1977 Fontenay sous-Bois: Sculptures and Environments  
Paris 1976: Gallery of the University (Paris-Sculpt)  
1976 Paris: Dialogue Group  
1976 Calais: A Century of Drawings by Sculptors  
Allones 1976: International Festival of Contemporary Art  
Barcelona 1975: Fifth International Biennial Sports in the Beaux-Arts  
Paris 1974: Gallery of the University (Paris-Sculpt)  
1974 Paris: Musée Galliera: Cabinets Fantastic  
1974 Saint-Etienne and Montpellier: Jewelry Sculptors  
1972 Paris: Sculpture into Architecture  
1972 Mesnil Saint-Denis: House of Culture: ExpositioInternationale  
1972 North Africa: Algiers, Rabat, Tunis: "Three Writers, A Sculptor"  
1970 Montargis Arts Festival  
1970 Cachan: University Institute of Technology  
in 1970 Verderonne: Art Center  
1969 Paris: Gallery Jacques Casanova  
Paris 1969: American Cultural Center: "Three Americans"  
in 1969 Ste-Geneviève-des-Bois: Salon Hurépoi  
1969 Avignon Festival d'Avignon  
in 1969 Verderonne: Art Centre 1968 Verderonne (Oise): Artistic Centre