

WOLF KAHN

October 4, 1927 - March, 15 2020

Wolf Kahn, who will be remembered for his luminous, color-saturated landscapes, left this earth peacefully on the morning of March 15, 2020, at the age of 92, a few months after his wife the painter Emily Mason predeceased him on December 10, 2019, at the age of 87. They were married for 62 years, and had two daughters, Cecily (b. 1959) and Melany (b. 1964), four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

From an early age, Kahn, who was born in Stuttgart, Germany, on October 4, 1927, knew he wanted to be an artist. When he had his first solo show in 1953 at the Hansa gallery, an artists' cooperative gallery that he helped found, critics, collectors, and museums quickly recognized Kahn, beginning with the painter and critic Fairfield Porter, who praised his work in *Art News*.

In 1957, the Museum of Modern Art acquired one of Kahn's works for its permanent collection, followed by the Whitney Museum of American Art, which acquired the painting *Large Olive Grove* (1957-58) for its collection. His work can be found in many museum collections, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; The Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Il; and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

A recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1966, Kahn received numerous awards and medals throughout his career, culminating in being awarded the U. S. State Department's International Medal of Arts in 2017. He was a member of the National Academy of Design (1980) and the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1984).

In 2003, Kahn had his first show with Ameringer and Yohe Fine Art in New York, which later became the Miles McEnery Gallery, and continues to represent him as well as Emily Mason. When asked about Kahn, McEnery said unabashedly, "Despite the difference in our ages, he's one of the closest friends I have."

Kahn never lost sight of the fact that being an artist was an impractical and perhaps even absurd vocation. When he was awarded an honorary degree from Marlboro College, he penned these words: "I ascribe this honor which you're granting me to my ability to spread colored butter on a canvas, which requires no special garb for it's practitioners, aside from a paint splattered smock." His daughter Melany delivered Kahn's words because, as she told the audience, her dad, who was 91, was busy in his studio painting.

- John Yau

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The forthcoming monograph on the artist is scheduled to be published this upcoming fall by Rizzoli.



Wolf Kahn, 1927 - 2020