

**ROBERT MOTHERWELL** was born in Aberdeen, WA in 1915. He received a BA from Stanford University in 1937, and later completed post-graduate work in philosophy at Harvard University. In 1940 Motherwell studied briefly at Columbia University with the renowned art historian Meyer Schapiro, who encouraged him to pursue painting. He went on to become one of the seminal figures of the American Abstract Expressionist movement.

Beginning in the mid-1940s, Motherwell became the leading spokesperson for avant-garde art in America. He lectured widely on abstract painting, and he founded and edited the Documents of Modern Art series. In 1948, he began to work with his celebrated *Elegy to the Spanish Republic* theme, which he continued to develop throughout his life.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Motherwell exhibited widely at museums in the United States and Europe. In 1958–59, he was included in *The New American Painting* exhibition, initiated by the Museum of Modern Art, which was shown in numerous European cities. That year he traveled in Spain and France, where he started his *Iberia* series.

Throughout the 1960s, Motherwell exhibited widely in both America and Europe, and in 1965 he was given a major retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art. This show subsequently traveled to Amsterdam, London, Brussels, Essen, and Turin.

Motherwell began to work on his *Open* series in 1967, and in 1970, he moved to Greenwich, Connecticut. During the 1970s and 1980s, he continued to create new series of works and to exhibit widely. He had important retrospective exhibitions in a number of European cities, including Düsseldorf, Stockholm, Vienna, Paris, Edinburgh, and London. In 1977, Motherwell was given a major mural commission for the new wing of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

In 1983, a large retrospective exhibition of Motherwell's work was mounted at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York. This exhibition was subsequently shown in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., and New York City. An additional retrospective was shown in Mexico City, Monterey, and Fort Worth, Texas in 1991.

His work may be found in such permanent collections as the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; the Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; Museo Guggenheim Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain; Museo de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Germany; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; the Tate Modern, London, England; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Motherwell was the recipient of numerous awards including the Guggenheim International Award of Merit in 1964, Mayor's Award of Honor for Arts and Culture of the City of New York in 1981, the Edward MacDowell Colony Medal in 1985, National Medal of Arts in 1989, La Medalla de Oro de Bellas Artes, Spain in 1989. He was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters in 1970.

Robert Motherwell died in 1991 at the age of 76 in Provincetown, MA.

## SELECT COLLECTIONS

Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH  
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogotá, Colombia  
Canton Museum of Art, Canton, OH  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, SC  
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH  
Dalhousie Art Gallery, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
David Owsley Museum of Art, Ball State University, Muncie, IN  
David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, Providence, RI  
Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE  
Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA  
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA  
Guggenheim Bilbao, Bilbao, Spain  
Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
Hofstra University Museum of Art, Hempstead, NY  
Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA  
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN  
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California  
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO  
Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland  
Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel, MS  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX  
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain  
Museu d'Arte Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
Museum of the National Academy of Design, New York  
National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh, United Kingdom  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

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North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC  
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL  
Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, OK  
Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL  
Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA  
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.  
Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ  
San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE  
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.  
Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA  
Tate, London, United Kingdom  
Tweed Museum of Art, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN  
Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS  
University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, FL  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS

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