

NORMAN BLUHM (b. 1920, Chicago, IL) attended the Armour Institute of Technology (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) and studied architecture under Mies van der Rohe. After serving in the Second World War, he decided not to continue his architectural studies and instead began to study art. First, he attended the Accademia di Belle Arte in Florence, Italy and afterward, the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France.

During his lifetime, Bluhm's work was the subject of solo exhibitions at Washburn Gallery, New York, NY; Riva Yares Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ; Zolla-Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL; Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.; Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY, and Paul Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. He was also included in numerous group exhibitions at such venues as the Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport, CA; Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA; Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; the National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C.; Galerie Stadler, Paris, France; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, and The Parrish Art Museum, among others.

His work may be found in such permanent collections as the Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH; the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX; the Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales; the Newark Museum of Art, New York, NY; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Norman Bluhm died in 1999 at the age of 78 in East Wallingford, VT.

CHRONOLOGY

1920

Born March 28 in Chicago, IL to Henry Bluhm and Rosa Goldstein.

1925-1929

Lives in Florence, Italy with his mother and his younger brother, William, while his father works on an engineering project in the Soviet Union.

1930-1935

The Bluhm family returns to Chicago, IL.

1936-1941

Studies architecture at Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL. Mies van der Rohe becomes head of the department in 1938 and Bluhm attends his first classes.

1941

In late December, enlists in U.S. Army Air Corps, along with his brother William, who later passes in action.

1944

Discharged from the U.S. Army Air Corps.

1945

Returns briefly to architectural studies at Armour, then decides to leave the field.

1946-47

Moves to Florence, and studies fresco painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze.

1947-56

Lives in Paris. Studies at École des Beaux-Arts and Académie de la Grande Chaumière.

1950

Marries Claude Souvrain, an artist with deep ties to the Parisian art world.

1953

Included in Peintres américains en France at Galerie Craven, Paris.

1956

Divorces Claude Souvrain, and moves to New York, NY.

1957

Rents a studio at 333 Park Avenue South, and exhibits first solo show at Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY.

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1958

Rents a summer house in Springs, on the East End of Long Island, with Michael Goldberg across from Green River Cemetery.

1959

Included in the Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, PA; Whitney Museum Annual, New York, NY; and Documenta II, Kassel, Germany. He is also included in exhibitions at galleries in Los Angeles, CA and Milan, Italy, and in a group show at Leo Castelli.

1960

Meets Cary Ogle, who was working at Staempfli Gallery on East 77th Street, and spends summer in Paris, France and uses Joan Mitchell's studio on rue Frémicourt. He is included in numerous surveys of contemporary art at American museums, most notably Sixty American Painters at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN. He exhibits his second solo show at Leo Castelli, New York, NY.

1961

Marries Cary Ogle at Shirley Kaplan's mother's house in Norwalk, CT, in May, followed by an extended honeymoon in Italy. Guests include Frank O'Hara, Mike Goldberg, Patsy Southgate, and Joe LeSueur. He is included in American Abstract Expressionists and Imagists at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY. He shows with Elaine de Kooning in a two-person exhibition at Graham Gallery, New York, NY organized by Joan Washburn.

1962

His son David is born. He exhibits a solo show of paintings at David Anderson Gallery, New York, NY.

1963

His daughter Nina is born.

1964

Moves to Paris with his family and paints in a studio owned by Galerie Stadler on rue Nationale.

1965

The Bluhm family returns to New York, NY.

1968

His first solo show at Galerie Stadler, Paris, France opens during the 1968 student protests.

1969

First monographic museum show at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., of paintings from the 1960s, organized by James Harithas. He leaves New York with his family for Connecticut, but maintains a studio in New York, NY.

1970

He begins showing at Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY (David Anderson, director), and has solo shows there in 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1974. The Bluhm family moves to a former winery in Millbrook, NY, and Bluhm sets up a large painting studio in the hayloft and drawing studio in the old worker's quarters.

1972

He is included in the Whitney Annual Exhibition of American Painting.

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1973

He exhibits a solo show of recent paintings at Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY, organized by James Harithas. He shows a solo exhibition at the Palazzo delle Prigionie, Venice, Italy, arranged by gallerist Rinaldo Rotta.

1976

He has a solo exhibiton at the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX, organized by James Harithas.

1977

He has a solo exhibition of recent paintings at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC, organized by Jane Livingston.

1981

He moves to East Hampton, NY where he and Cary build a new house.

1984

Solo exhibition Norman Bluhm: Seven from the Seventies at Staller Center for the Arts, Stony Brook, NY organized by Rhonda Cooper and Terence Netter. He is included in the exhibition Action/Precision: The New Direction at the Newport Harbour Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA, organized by Paul Schimmel, and the exhibition travels to five other venues.

1986

Joins Washburn Gallery, New York, NY, and exhibits solo shows there in 1986, 1989, 1990, and 1991.

1987

He shows a solo exhibition, Norman Bluhm: Works on Paper, 1947-1987, at Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, organized by William Salzillo, and the exhibition travels to six other venues.

1988

Moves to East Wallingford, VT where Norman and Cary renovate a nineteenth-century farmhouse and build a large new studio.

1992

He begins showing at Galleria Peccolo, Livorno, Italy, and has solo shows there in 1992, 1995, and 1998.

1994

Exhibits solo shows at Ace Gallery, New York, NY and Los Angeles, CA.

1999

On February 3rd, the artist passes at his home in East Wallingford, VT. The Butler Institute, Youngstown, OH exhibits Norman Bluhm: A Tribute Exhibition, organized by Lou Zona and Jim Harithas.

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NORMAN BLUHM

Born in Chicago, IL in 1920

Died in East Wallingford, VT in 1999

EDUCATION

1947	École des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France
1946	Accademia de Belle Arte, Florence, Italy
1945	Studies Architecture at Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL
1941–1945	United States Army Air Forces
1936–1941	Studied Architecture with Ludwig Mies van der Rohe at Armour Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022	Miles McEnergy Gallery, New York, NY
2020	“Norman Bluhm: Space, Time Continuum,” Hollis Taggart, New York, NY “Norman Bluhm: Metamorphosis,” The Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ
2019	“Norman Bluhm: The 70s,” Hollis Taggart, New York, NY Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
2015	“Norman Bluhm: Divine Proportion,” Christie’s Private Sales, New York, NY
2012	“Norman Bluhm’s Architecture of Desire,” 499 Park Avenue and Hines, New York, NY
2011	“Norman Bluhm: Paintings 1967-1974,” McClain Gallery, Houston, TX “Norman Bluhm: Paintings 1967-1974,” Loretta Howard Gallery, New York, NY
2010	“Norman Bluhm: A Retrospective of Works on Paper 1948-1998,” McClain Gallery, Houston, TX “Norman Bluhm: A Retrospective of Works on Paper 1948-1998,” Galleria Il Gabbiano, Rome, Italy
2009	“Norman Bluhm: Gestural Structures 1960-1965,” Kunsthandel Wolfgang Werner, Berlin, Germany “Norman Bluhm: A Retrospective of Works on Paper 1948-1998,” Jacobson Howard Gallery, New York, NY
2008	“Norman Bluhm: Large-Scale Works on Paper,” James Graham & Sons, New York, NY
2007	“The Late Paintings of Norman Bluhm,” Station Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX “Norman Bluhm: Selected Works from 1976-1989,” Manny Silverman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2005	“Norman Bluhm, Works on Paper from the 70s, 80s, and 90s,” James Graham & Sons, New York, NY “Norman Bluhm, Three Paintings,” JG Contemporary, New York, NY
2002	“Norman Bluhm, Drawings,” Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA “Ideal Abstraction, 1955-1965, Norman Bluhm and Karl Benjamin,” Gary Snyder Fine Arts, New York, NY
2000	“Opere su carta 1948-1999,” Padiglione d’Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
1999	“Norman Bluhm, A Tribute Exhibition,” The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
1998	“Works from the 1950’s and 1960’s,” Galleria Peccolo, Livorno, Italy
1996	“Opere 1993-1995,” Studio d’arte Zanoletti, Milan “12 Works on Paper,” Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY
1995	“Opere 1993-1995,” Galleria Peccolo, Livorno, Italy Galleria Blu, Milan, Italy

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- 1994 Ace Contemporary Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA
Ace Contemporary Exhibitions, New York, NY
- 1992 "Works on paper, 1967-1991," Galleria Peccolo, Livorno, Italy
The Anderson Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 1991 "Works from the 1960's," Washburn Gallery, New York, NY
Hiram Butler Gallery (with James Surls and Robert Creeley), Houston, TX
- 1990 "Works from the 1950's," Washburn Gallery, New York, NY
"Selected Works, 1954-1960," Manny Silverman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1989 Riva Yares Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
Washburn Gallery, New York, NY
- 1988 Galerie Stadler, Paris, France
- 1987 "Norman Bluhm, Works on Paper, 1947-1987," Fred L. Emerson Gallery, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY; traveled to the Ball State University Art Gallery, Muncie, IN; Allentown Art Museum of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown, PA; The Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AK; McNay Museum, San Antonio, TX; University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Buscaglia-Castellani Art Gallery of Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York
"Poem Prints, Norman Bluhm and John Yau," Cone Editions, New York, NY
- 1986 Washburn Gallery, New York, NY
Zolla-Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1985 Herbert Palmer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1984 The Fine Arts Center Gallery, State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY
- 1982 Galerie Stadler, Paris, France
- 1977 Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1976 Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX
Robinson Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1975 Galerie Stadler, Paris, France
- 1974 Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY
Vassar College Gallery of Art, Poughkeepsie, NY
Palazzo delle Prigioni Vecchie, Venice, Italy
Galleria Il Cerchio, Milan, Italy
Galleria Rotta, Milan, Italy
- 1973 Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY
- 1972 Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY
Galerie Stadler, Paris, France
- 1971 Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY
J. L. Hudson Gallery, Detroit, MI
- 1970 Galerie Stadler, Paris, France
Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY
- 1969 The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1968 Galerie Stadler, Paris, France
- 1967 "Poem-Paintings by Frank O'Hara and Norman Bluhm," Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York, NY
- 1965 Galerie Anderson-Mayer, Paris, France

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- 1964 Galerie Smith, Brussels, Belgium
- 1963 Galerie Semiha Huber, Zurich, Switzerland
American Gallery, New York, NY
Galerie Anderson-Mayer, Paris, France
- 1962 David Anderson Gallery, New York, NY
- 1961 Galleria Notizie, Turin, Italy
Holland-Goldowsky Gallery (with Larry Rivers), Chicago, IL
Graham Gallery (with Elaine de Kooning), New York, NY
- 1960 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY
- 1959 Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy
- 1958 Paul Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1957 Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, NY

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA

Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY

Allentown Art Museum of the Lehigh Valley, Allentown, PA

Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AK

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada

Ball State University Museum of Art, Muncie, IN

Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL

Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME

Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH

Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University, NY

Centre Nationale d'Art Contemporain, Paris

Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA

Connecticut College, New London, CT

Cooley Art Gallery, Reed College, Portland, OR

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX

Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH

Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO

Dillard University Fine Arts Gallery, New Orleans, LA

Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY

Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA

Grey Art Gallery, New York University Art Collection, New York, NY

Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D. C.

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MILES

McENERY

GALLERY

The Jewish Museum, New York, NY
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY
Sidney Mishkin Gallery, Baruch College, NY
MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, CA
Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO
Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, Purchase, NY
Newark Museum, Newark, NJ
The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY
The Phillips Collection, Washington, D. C.
Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ
Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ
Rocky Mountain College, Billings, MT
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D. C.
University Gallery, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ
University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA
University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, KY
Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
The Weatherspoon Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

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