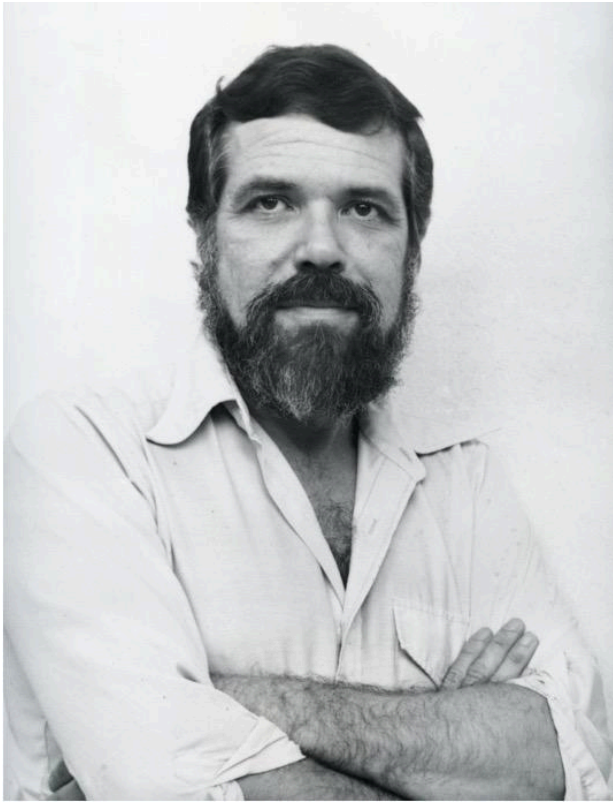


Robert Gordy



Biography

Robert Gordy is considered a pioneering Southern artist of the 20th century, known primarily as a printmaker, but also renowned for his works on canvas and for extremely clean, detailed works on paper in marker and ink. Born in Louisiana in 1933, Gordy received his BFA and MFA from Louisiana State University, and studied with Hans Hofmann in the 1950's.

Throughout his career, Gordy was the recipient of numerous accolades, including a Ford Foundation Fellowship, a Yale-Norfolk Fellowship, and the National Endowment for the Arts Purchase Award. He was shown at the 1973 Whitney Biennial, as well as the 21st National Print Exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum, among many other individual and group exhibitions at notable galleries and museums. His work is featured in several prestigious collections, including the National

Collection of Fine Art (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY).

The apparent calm of his paintings and drawings evidences a mastery of the dynamics of shape in varied balance. His clean-edged and stylized forms, melodic patterns, and flawless color harmonies are characteristic of his pre-1982 work—a body of work also renowned for a sensitivity regarding the treatment of color, and for exquisite compositional patterning (utilizing a technique self-described as “knitting”). Beyond surface aesthetic, however, Gordy’s work is shot through with a riveting emotional reality, informed by the French Symbolist-Surrealist tradition, and most clearly present in the monotype portraiture of his later career.

Gordy’s incredibly forceful late monotypes are profoundly moving. Not only are these late works a testament to his mastery of the medium, they are a monument to the artist’s courage in the face of his mortality. During the AIDS epidemic of the 1980’s, Gordy endured the death of his companion, and his own diagnosis with the disease. Gordy worked up until the weeks before his death in 1986, and bequeathed his estate to the New Orleans Museum of Art, to benefit the museum’s collection and programs. His death at the age of 52 was an enormous loss to New Orleans, and to the art world at large.

Robert Gordy

Born Jefferson Island, LA
 Dates October 13, 1933 - September 25, 1986

EDUCATION

1956 M.A., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
 1955 B.A., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
 1953 Studied with Hans Hofmann

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1965 Instructor, University of New Orleans, LA
 1963 Instructor, The Putney School, Putney, VT
 1962 Instructor, Sterling College, Sterling, KS
 1957 Instructor, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

SELECTED AWARDS

1978,67 Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Purchase Award, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX
 1973 Award Winner, "Artists Biennial," New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
 1971 Purchase Award, "Artists of the Southeast and Texas Biennial," New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
 Ford Foundation Fellowship
 1954 Yale-Norfolk Fellowship, Yale University, New Haven, CT

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2024 *From the Estate*, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 2019 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 2000 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 1996 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 1992 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 1988 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 1987 Texas Gallery, Houston, TX
 1986 New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
 Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA
 1986,84 Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
 1985-86 *Monotypes of Robert Gordy*, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (traveling exhibition)
 1985,79 Phyllis Kind Gallery, New York, NY
 1984-85 *Prints and Paintings of Robert Gordy*, New Orleans Museum of Art (traveling exhibition)
 1984 The Fine Arts Museum of the South, Mobile, AL
Artworks '84, Louisiana World Exposition, New Orleans, LA

- 1983 Carol Shapiro Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1982-81 *Robert Gordy, Paintings and Drawings: 1960-1980*, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
 Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL
 Jacksonville Museum of Fine Arts, Jacksonville, FL
 Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC
 Cincinnati Museum of Contemporary Art, Cincinnati, OH
 Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX
- 1979,77 Delahunty Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 1976 Phyllis Kind Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1975 Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA
- 1974,72 New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
- 1974 Pyramid Galleries, Washington, D.C.
- 1973,71,69 Galerie Simonne Stern, New Orleans, LA
 Hank Baum Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1972 *Drawings and Prints*, Glasgow College of Arts, Scotland
- 1970 Cranfill Gallery, Dallas, TX
- 1968 Atelier Chapman Kelley, Dallas, TX
- 1968,67 Glade Gallery, New Orleans, LA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *45 Years*, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2020 *Art in the Time of Empathy*, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 *Pride of Place: The Making of Contemporary Art in New Orleans*, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 *Groovy: A Psychedelic Summer*, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
- 1986 *Artist/Printmaker*, The Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, MD
- 1985 *The Exhibition at 112 Greene Street*, Arthur Roger Gallery, New York, NY
- 1984 *Monotypes*, The Weintraub Gallery, New York, NY
The Art of New Orleans, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, NC
- 1983 *The Human Figure*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
New Decorative Art, The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA and The University Art Gallery, State University of New York at Albany, Albany, NY
Southern Fiction, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, TX
The American Artist as Printmaker: 23rd National Print Exhibition, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY
- 1980 *Image into Pattern*, P.S.1 Gallery, New York, NY
American Painting of the Sixties and Seventies: The Real, The Ideal, The Fantastic-Selections from the Whitney Museum of American Art, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, AL
The Figurative Tradition: Paintings and Sculpture from the Permanent Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
American Figure Painting: 1950-1980, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
American Drawings in Black and White: 1970-1980, Brooklyn Museum, NY
Louisiana Major Works, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, LA
- 1978 *21st National Print Exhibition*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
The 1970's: New American Painting, The New Museum, New York, NY (traveling exhibition)
- 1975 *Art USA: The South*, New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA (traveling exhibition)

- 1973 *Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Art*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Divergent Representation: Five Contemporary Artists, National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.
Extraordinary Realities, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
- 1968 *14 Artists, Award Winners in the Southeast and Southwest Regions Selected by the National Endowment for the Arts*, Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, TX
New Acquisitions, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
- 1967 *Annual Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Alexandria Museum and Visual Art Center, Alexandria, LA
American Express Corp., New York, NY
Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC
Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
Dallas Museum, Dallas, TX
Fort Worth Art Center, Fort Worth, TX
Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Metropolitan Museum, New York, NY
National Collection of Fine Art, Washington, D.C.
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA
Oklahoma Fine Arts Center, Oklahoma City, OK
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Terrington Calas, "Gordy's Chimerical World," *New Orleans Art Review*, Sep/Oct 2000
Doug MacCash, "What Art Books Don't Tell You," *The Times-Picayune*, August 4, 2000
Terrington Calas, "On Gordy's Last Works," *New Orleans Art Review*, March/April 1996
Associated Press, "Robert Gordy is Dead at 52; Artist with a Whimsical Style," *The New York Times*,
September 26, 1986
Marcia E. Vetrocq, "Robert Gordy at Arthur Roger," *Art in America*, March 1985
Barry Walker, "Robert Gordy Monotypes," *New Orleans Museum of Art*