

## ArtPEOPLE

**Gregory Corso**, 70, a poet and leading member of the Beat literary movement that shook American social and political life in the late 1950s and 60s, died in January of cancer.

**Morris Lapidus**, the architect long derided and later praised for designing some of South Florida's gaudiest, glitziest and most glamorous hotels in the 1950s and 60s, died in January at the age of 98. Just name the Fontainebleau, Americana and Eden Roc hotels, and you know they are Lapidus!

**Frederick Hughes**, Andy Warhol's business manager for more than 25 years, died in January at the age of 57. Known for his acerbic humor, quick wit and inability to pass an antiques store without buying something, Hughes became the executor of Warhol's estate when the artist died in 1987. Hughes quickly founded the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, which he directed until 1990.

**Don Richard Eckelberry**, a prolific illustrator who was one of the U.S.'s foremost bird painters, died on 14 January at the age of 79.

**Yozo Hamaguchi**, a Japanese-born artist known for his work in mezzotint engraving, a technique he was introduced to by the poet e.e. cummings, died in Tokyo on 25 December at the age of 91.

**Sol Libsohn**, an early documentary photographer whose images of ordinary Americans appeared in many national publications, died in January at the age of 86. He started as a model for artists for some WPA muralists, and then was drafted to record the images of New Yorkers coping with hard times, from truckers to circus people.

**Eric Stiebel**, chairman of Rosenberg & Stiebel, an internationally known art gallery that specialized in European old master paintings and decorative arts, died at the age of 89.

**Esteban Vicente**, the Spanish painter who was one of the last active members of the New York school of Abstract Expressionist artists, died in February at the age of 97. The last four years of his life he spent making large collage paintings. The Spanish government opened the Esteban Vicente Contemporary Art Museum in Segovia in 1998.

**John T. Biggers**, an artist and educator, who chronicled the African American experience in paintings, murals and illustrations, died in Houston in January at the age of 76. He founded the art department of the Texas Southern University in 1949 and retired from there in 1983.

**Eugenia Butler**, art collector and dealer whose innovative galleries helped legitimize edgy contemporary art in the 1960s, died in Southern California on 21 December. She brought Vasarely, Jesus Rafael Soto and Lucio Fontana to Los Angeles, as well as Joseph Kosuth, Larry Witner, John Baldessari and Diter Rot, whose exhibition of 20 suitcases filled with cheese which in the 30-day summer exhibition ended dramatically after the cheese swelled and the Los Angeles Health Department closed it down. Another striking exhibit, "Walling Off Jeannie" executed by James Lee Byars, consisted of a wall separating Butler's office from her gallery.

**James Demetrian**, director of the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC for the past 17 years, is retiring at the end of September.

**Seymour Hacker**, whose 57<sup>th</sup> Street bookstore in New York City, Hacker Art Books, was a well-known fixture of both the art and book worlds for more than 50 years, died in December at the age of 83. One of the "last of the dinosaurs", he created a publishing line as well as an art gallery in his book store and attracted customers such as Delmore Schwartz, Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and his friend Zero Mostel.

**Jack S. Liebowitz**, the comic-book publisher whose business acumen helped turn Superman, the creation of two teenage cartoonists, into the most recognizable superhero in the world, died at the age of 100 in December.

**Felice Stampfle**, curator of drawings and prints at the Morgan Library in New York City for nearly 40 years and editor of the scholarly journal Master Drawings, died in December at the age of 88.

**Knud Jensen**, a well-to-do Dane who founded the Louisiana Museum of contemporary art 20 miles north of Copenhagen, died in December at the age of 84.

**Dana Winslow Atchley III**, a performance artist and video producer who pioneered an art form called digital

storytelling, died in December of complications from a bone-marrow transplant. He was 59. A self-described old hippie who once toured the country as a performance artist named Ace, Atchley combined a love of family history with his skills in new media to create an autobiographical show called "Next Exit," which he performed at film and video festivals around the world. He and his wife, Denise, founded the Digital Storytelling Festival, held in Crested Butte, Colorado, since 1995.

Every performance was different, like an improvisation, in that Atchley invited his audience to help choose which 12 of the 70 vignettes in his digital library to screen. One of the stories in his show—about his first romantic crush as a 7-year-old—so moved the president of Coca-Cola that he hired him to tell the history of the famous soft drink as a digital story. Atchley went on to create the Digital Storytelling Theater inside the World of Coca-Cola museum in Las Vegas.

**O. Winston Link**, a photographer whose requiem for steam railroading portrayed it as a spectacularly alive and often surreal presence in 1950s small-town America, died in late January at the age of 86.

**Rodolfo Morales**, Mexican artist and a guiding spirit of Oaxacan art, an heir to the artistic legacy of Rufino Tamayo, died in late January at the age of 75

**Vincent Palumbo**, the last of the stonecutters to work on the carvings, gargoyles, saints and angels that adorn Washington National Cathedral, died in December at the age of 64. He was the fifth generation of stone carvers in his family, and for the first five years at the cathedral, Palumbo worked with his father, Paolo Palumbo, a cathedral stone carver until his death in 1966.

**Rosalie Gwathmey**, a photographer who was noted for the warmth and artful simplicity of her pictures of black Southern communities, and who threw away all her negatives in 1955 after donating most of her prints to the New York Public Library, died in February in Amagansett, New York, at the age of 92.

**Balthus** or Count Ballthazar Kossowski de Rola, the reclusive French painter and stage designer known by the single name, Balthus, died on 18 February in the Swiss mountain village of Rossiniere at the age of 92. The last of the School of Paris painters who dominated western art before World War II, Balthus' signature work was on the sexual awakening of adolescent girls, who were often depicted in isolation in sparsely furnished rooms assuming

poses that wavered between naive innocence and erotic suggestiveness.

**Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula**, an influential artist whose work helped popularize aboriginal art and later sold for record prices at auction, died on 12 February in poverty in desert camp in central Australia at the age of 75. He was one of the most acclaimed of the Papunya Tul school of indigenous artists who pioneered the aboriginal technique of dot painting.

The last high mark for one of his paintings, "Water Dreaming at Kalipinya, 1972" sold at auction for \$263,145, a record for an aboriginal artwork, rendering nothing for the artist from the sale. Alas, he had sold his work to unscrupulous dealers.

**Elizabeth N. Armstrong**, formerly curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla, will take a new position as Chief Curator of the Orange County Museum of Art, formerly the Newport Harbor Art Museum, in April.

**Morison S. Cousins**, a designer who brought flashy, European-inspired designs to Tupperware without sacrificing its polyethylene American soul, died on 10 February in Orlando, Florida at the age of 66. From 1990 when he became vice president of Tupperware Corporation in charge of design, his mission was to spiff products whose look had grown a little stale, but he did more. He revolutionized Tupperware with bold, geometric designs mingled with soft touches, adding splashier colors.

**Miné Okubo**, a Japanese-American artist who recorded in 2,000 drawings and a book what she saw and felt as an internee in American detention camps for Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II, died in February at the age of 88.

**Mark Jones**, director of the National Museums of Scotland for 9 years, has been named director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, succeeding Alan Borg, who has led the museum since 1995.

**Mfon Essien**, a Nigerian-born American photographer, died in New York at the age of 34. She is in the exhibition "Committed to the Image: Contemporary Black Photographers" at the Brooklyn Museum.

**Emily Vermeule**, an emeritus professor of classical philology and archaeology at Harvard University, who started her career with the discovery of an ancient Mycenaean tomb and went on to conduct excavations in Greece, Turkey, Libya and Cyprus, died at the age of 72.

**Jean Bazaine**, 96, a French artist known for his paintings, mosaics and stained-glass church windows, died in March. He was famed for his mosaic pattern covering the ceiling and walls of Paris' Cluny-La Sorbonne Metro station, a design splashed with pastels and incorporating the signatures of hundreds of writers and thinkers.

**Margaret Tafoya**, known for large pottery pieces of black-on-black and red-on-red with such profound and graceful beauty that she acquired a global reputation, died at the age of 96 at her home in Santa Clara Pueblo near Santa Fe, New Mexico. She turned the chocolate-colored clay of her New Mexico pueblo into major works of art.

**Louis Faurer**, a photographer who captured compelling images of the street which were raw, tender and often melancholy, died in March at the age of 84. He had a tendency for unforgiving perfectionism, but with a great generosity to the subjects of his work. He died in Manhattan.

**Ian L. McHarg**, a landscape architect, planner and dynamic personality whose passion for meshing communities and ecology inspired scores of disciples, died in March at the age of 80. His most enduring contribution to the field is his 1969 book, *Design with Nature*, which urged landscape planners to conform to ecology, not compete with it. The book has sold more than 250,000 copies.

**Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron**, architects of the Tate Modern museum project in London and soon to be the new expanded Walker Art Center and the de Young Museum in San Francisco, have won the Pritzker Prize sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation of Los Angeles, a \$100,000 grant, to be awarded at a ceremony on 7 May at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home.

**Janet Cardiff** of Canada, an audio artist, has captured the \$50,000 international Millennium Prize for her *Forty Part Motet*, a sound piece which consists of 40 speakers, mounted on stands arranged around the periphery of the National Gallery's famous Rideau Chapel, an immaculately restored 19<sup>th</sup>-century neo-Gothic convent interior. Each of the speakers emits the sound of a distinct voice singing one part from the complex and transporting *Spem in Alium*, a 12-minute choral work written by the British composer Thomas Tallis in 1575. During the performers' intermission, the audience hears the singers chatting, working out difficulties in the score, or discussing their various jobs and interests before the performance resumes again.

Museum-goers have been moved to tears by her audio-art experience. She will be representing Canada at the Venice Biennale this summer.

**Henry Loyrette** is the new director of the Louvre in Paris after leaving his post as chief of the d'Orsay Museum. Loyrette is an expert on Degas.

**Lawrence Clark Powell**, the legendary librarian and literary bibliographer who founded the UCLA School of Library Science and built the fledgling UCLA library into a great institution, died in Tucson at the age of 94.

**Ed "Big Daddy" Roth**, the sign painter turned car designer whose outrageous automotive creations and grungy cartoon alter ego, Rat Fink, made him an outlaw icon of Southern California pop culture of the 1950s and 60s, died at the age of 69 in early April. His influence was as profound on the contemporary art world as on the hot rod art world.



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