

ROBERT MOTHERWELL

TIMELINE

- 1915** Born to Robert Burns Motherwell II and Margaret Motherwell in Aberdeen, Washington, on 24th January.
- 1918** Family moves to California.
- 1919-26** Family live in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 1926** Family moves permanently to California*. receives a scholarship to the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles.
- 1932-1937** Studies painting briefly at California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco before attending Stanford University, Palo Alto, California receives BA in philosophy
38. Completes one year of a Philosophy PhD, Harvard University
- 1938** Travels in Europe. Spends the summer at the University of Grenoble. Rents a studio in Paris from October, 1938 to July, 1939
- 1939** Teaches Art, University of Oregon, Eugene.
- 1940** Moves to New York and studies History of Art with Meyer Schapiro, at Columbia University. Works as studio assistant to surrealist artist, Kurt Seligmann.
- 1941** Travels to Mexico with the Chilean Surrealist painter Roberto Matta; does "automatic" drawings and paints first major paintings including *The Little Spanish Prison*. Meets the Mexican actress Maria Emilia Ferreria y Moyers whom he marries the following year. Returns to New York City in December; moves into Perry Street Apartment in Greenwich Village.
- 1942** Permanently abandons university studies in favour of painting. Meets William Baziotes and quickly gains entry to a group of New York Artists including Pollock, Rothko and Kline, who would come to be known as Abstract Expressionists. Collaborates with Max Ernst and André Breton on the surrealist magazine VVV.
- 1943** Father dies. Income ceases. Makes first collages with Jackson Pollock.
- 1944** First one-man exhibition at Peggy Guggenheim's gallery, Art of this Century, New York. First museum purchase, *Pancho Villa Dead and Alive*, by Museum of Modern Art, New York. Writes for Partisan Review. Until 1951, edits and directs the *Documents of Modern Art* series.
- 1945** Signs exclusive contract with Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York. Spends spring in Florida with William Baziotes. Becomes friendly with Adolphe Gottlieb. Teaches during the summer at Black Mountain College, North Carolina. Moves to East Hampton, Long Island where he buys a studio designed by Architect Pierre Chareau.

- 1946** Meets Mark Rothko in East Hampton. Included in exhibition “Fourteen Americans” at Museum of Modern Art, New York.
- 1947** Publishes Possibilities with John Cage, Pierre Chareau and Harold Rosenberg.
- 1948** First use of the image which was to become the motif for the Elegies. Founds the Art School “Subjects of the Artists”, with Bazziotes, David Hare and Rothko. Later joined by Newman. First use of the image which was to become the motif for the Elegy series.
- 1949** Divorces María Ferreira y Moyers. Opens Robert Motherwell School of Fine Art.
- 1950** Marries Betty Little. Meets David Smith. Takes teaching post at Hunter College, New York.
- 1951** Teaches during summer at Black Mountain College; Robert Motherwell and Cy Twombly are students. Writes *The School of New York* for the Frank Perls Gallery. Lectures at Museum of Modern Art, New York and Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University.
- 1952** Lectures at CAA, New York and at Washington University. Gives graduate seminar at Oberlin College, Ohio; participates in panel discussion in Woodstock, New York.
- 1953** Daughter Jeannie born.
- 1954** Teaches at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Centre; meets Emerson Woelffer. Guest of Federal Republic of Germany in exchange program.
- 1955** Included in exhibition “The New Decade: Thirty Five American Painters and Sculptors”, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Daughter Lise born. Included in MoMA’s exhibition “Modern Art in The United States” which tours European cities.
- 1957** Divorces Betty Little. Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, becomes exclusive dealer.
- 1958** Marries Helen Frankenthaler. Included in MoMA’s “The New American Painting” which tours Europe. Spends Summer in Spain and France, mainly Saint Jean de Luz; begins *Iberia* series of black paintings.
- 1959** First retrospective at Bennington College, Vermont. Resigns from Hunter College.
- 1960** Interviewed by David Sylvester for the BBC: *Painting as a Self-Discovery*, interview is later published in Metro magazine as *Painting as Existence*. Spends summer in Italy ; starts *Summertime in Italy* series.
- 1961** Travels to London and Paris. Begins to make prints at Tatyana Grosman’s Universal Limited Art Editions Studio, Long Island. Retrospective exhibition at *VI Bienal de Arte*, São Paulo, Brazil.

- 1962** Lectures and conducts workshops at Emily Lowe Art Gallery, Florida.
Buys house in Provincetown, "Sea Barn".
Appointed visiting critic at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- 1963** Becomes art consultant for 'Partisan review'. Included in CBS television broadcast with fourteen other contemporary painters. Marlborough-Gerson Gallery, New York becomes his exclusive dealer.
- 1964 Visits Paris Venice and London. Awarded 4th Guggenheim International Award, Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York.
- 1965** Creates *Lyric Suite*, 565 ink paintings.
Major retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, curated by Frank O'Hara, with a major catalogue, the exhibition travels to museums in, London, Brussels, Essen and Turin.
David Smith dies in driving accident.
- 1967** Begins Open series of paintings.
- 1968** Elected advisory editor of the 'American Scholar' Becomes general editor of Documents of 20th Century Art. Joins a number of protests against the Vietnam War.
- 1969** Elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.
Separates from Helen Frankenthaler.
- 1970** Moves principal studio to Greenwich, Connecticut. Rothko commits suicide and Motherwell writes a eulogy delivered Jan 1971.
Protests Vietnam War by refusing to contribute to federally sponsored exhibition.
Participates in Art Workers' Coalition at MoMA.
- 1971** Divorces Frankenthaler. Appointed distinguished professor at Hunter College.
Begins sessions with Blackwood Productions for documentary film on him.
- 1972** Marries the photographer Renate Ponsold.
Collage retrospective at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.
Completes etchings for Alberti's *A la pittura* published by Universal Limited Art Editions.
Lawrence Rubin becomes his main dealer (and subsequently heads M. Knoedler & Co, New York, London, Zurich).
Kenneth Tyler becomes his major collaborator in lithography.
Begins series *In Plato's Cave*.
- 1973** Begins making etchings on his own press in Greenwich, with Catherine Mousley.
- 1974** Emergency hospitalisation. Undergoes major surgery at Mt. Sinai Hospital, New York, remains on heart drug therapy and monitoring for remainder of his life.
- 1975** Retrospective exhibitions at Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City and at the Princeton Art Museum.
- 1976** Retrospective exhibitions in Dusseldorf and Stockholm.

- 1977** Retrospective exhibitions in Vienna, Edinburgh and Paris.
Begins mural commissioned by the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1978** Retrospective exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art, London.
Receives Grande Medaille de Vermeil de la Ville de Paris.
Mural installed at the National Gallery of Art.
- 1979** Receives Gold Medal of Honour from Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts,
Philadelphia.
Retrospective exhibition, William Benton Museum of Art, University of
Conecticut, Storrs.
- 1980** Retrospective exhibitions in Barcelona and Madrid. Awarded Gold medal
University of Salamanca, Spain. Graphics retrospective Museum of Modern Art,
New York, under the auspices of the American Federation of Arts.
- 1981 Mayor's Award, New York.
- 1982 Opening in November of Motherwell gallery in perpetuity in the Bavarian State
Gallery of Modern Art, Munich.
- 1983** Writes foreword to Abstract Expressionist Painting by William C. Seitz, Harvard
University Press.
- 1986** Recipient of gold medal from Juan Carlos. General health begins to decline.
- 1990** Enters Greenwich Hospital after suffering a stroke. Recuperates and enjoys an
intense period of painting in 1991.
- 1991** Dies at the age of 76, on July 16th in Cape Cod, Massachusetts

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

1938.
Raymond Duncan Gallery, Paris

1944
Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century Gallery, New York

1946
Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York
Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago
San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco

1947
Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York

1948

Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York

1949

Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York

1951

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1952

Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Ohio

Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York

1953

Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York

1954

Samuel Kootz Gallery, New York

1957

Sidney Janis Gallery, New York

1959

Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

1961

Sidney Janis Gallery, New York

1962

Pasadena Art Museum, California

Sidney Janis Gallery, New York

1963

Smith College Museum of Art, Massachusetts

Hayden Gallery, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Museum of Modern Art, New York

1967

San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California

1968

San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1969

Marlborough-Gerson Gallery, New York

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

The Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio

1970

Stanford University Museum an Art Gallery, palo

David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1971

Galerie im Erker, St. Gallen, Switzerland

1972

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Lawrence Rubin Gallery, New York
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas

1973

The Art Museum, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, California
David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1974

Albright-Knox Gallery, New York
Knoedler Contemporary Art, New York
Galerie André Emmerich, Zurich, Switzerland
Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, California

1975

David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Knoedler Contemporary Art, New York
Museo de Arte Moderna, Mexico City, Mexico
ACE, Los Angeles, California

1976

Knoedler Contemporary Art, New York
Janie C. Lee Gallery, Houston, Texas
Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, Germany
Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna
Brooke Alexander, inc., New York

1977

Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

1978

Royal Academy of Arts, London
National Gallery of Art, Washington
Knoedler and Co., London
M.Knoedler & Co., New York

1979

The William Benton Museum of Art, Connecticut
Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Kansas
Janie C. Lee Gallery, Houston, Texas
Galerie Veith Turske, Cologne, Germany

1980

Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain
The Museum of Modern Art, New York

1981

M.Knoedler & Co., New York

Galerie Veith Turske, Cologne, Germany

1982

M.Knoedler & Co., New York

1983

M.Knoedler & Co., New York

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

2001

Munich, Galerie Bernd Kluser

2003

Leverkusen, Museum Morsbroich

Los Angeles, Getty Museum

2009

Jim Kempner Fine Art, New York, USA

Galerie Boisserée, J. & W. Boisserée GmbH, Cologne, Germany

Leslie Sacks Fine Art, Los Angeles CA

Broadbent, London, UK

Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, UK

2011

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto

Denver Art Museum, Denver

Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London UK

2012

Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown

2012

'Robert Motherwell: Prints from the Artist's Studio', Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London

2013

'Robert Motherwell: Collage', Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London

Guggenheim Museum, Venice, Italy

Guggenheim Museum, New York

2014

Guild Hall of East Hampton, East Hampton, New York

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

2015

'Robert Motherwell: Black', Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London

'Robert Motherwell: A Centenary Survey of Major Works', Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London

'Robert Motherwell: Opens', Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York

'Robert Motherwell: Elegy to the Spanish Republic', Dominique Lévy Gallery, New York

'Motherwell: Lyric Suite', The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

'Between Life and Death: Robert Motherwell's Elegies in Bay Area Collections', The de Young Museum, San Francisco, California

'Robert Motherwell and the New York School at Hunter', The Bertha & Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery at Hunter College, New York

'Robert Motherwell: A Centennial Celebration', Fine Arts Work Center & Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, Maryland

2016

'Robert Motherwell: Abstract Expressionism', Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London
'A Process of Emphasis: Prints of Robert Motherwell, Works on Paper, 1971-1988', Manwaring Gallery and Gallery 66', Cummings Art Center, Connecticut

2017

'Matisse and American Art' Group Show, The Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey
'Robert Motherwell: A Series of Mistakes', The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
'Robert Motherwell: The Quiet + The Wild', Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center, Asheville, North Carolina
'Pollock and Motherwell: Legends of Abstract Expressionism', The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri
'Lyric Suite: Works on Paper by Robert Motherwell', The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

2018

'Ten American: After Paul Klee', The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C.
'Word and Image: Literary Influences in Motherwell's Works', Dedalus Foundation, Brooklyn, New York

2019

'Abstract Expressionism: A Social Revolution', Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa, Florida
'Motherwell: Open', Dedalus Foundation, Brooklyn, New York
'Some of the artists I have worked for', Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, UK
'Helen Frankenthaler and Robert Motherwell: The Art of Marriage', Mnuchin Gallery, New York

2020

'Robert Motherwell: Collages', Centro de Art Contemporaneo de Malaga, Malaga, Spain

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo
Arizona State University Art Museum, Phoenix
Armand Hammer Museum of Art at UCLA, California
Art Collection of biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Colombia
Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto
Canton Museum of Art, Ohio
Cleveland Museum of Art
Dalhousie University Art Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Dallas Museum of Art
David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, Providence
Denver Art Museum
The Empire State Plaza
Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco
Guggenheim Museum, New York
Hara Museum, Tokyo
Harvard University Art museums, Massachusetts
High Museum of Art, Atlanta
Hofstra Museum at Hofstra university, Hempstead, New York

Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri
Kiasma – Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland
Kunstmuseum Basel, Switzerland
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas
Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey
Musée d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Spain
Museum moderner Kunst Stidtung Ludwig, Vienna
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Museum of Modern Art, New York City
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Oklahoma City Art Museum, Oklahoma
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
The Phillips Collection, Washington DC
Sheldon Art Gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska
Smith College Museum of Art, Massachusetts
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC
Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas, Missouri
Swope Art Museum, Indiana
Tate Gallery, London
Tweed Museum of Art at the University of Minnesota, Duluth
University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, California
Wake Forest University Fine Arts Gallery, Winston-Salem, north Carolina
The Walker Art Center, Minnesota