

Merv Slotnick (1941-)

abstract expressionist painting, works on paper, sculpture, conceptual art

Abstract expressionist and printmaker Merv Slotnick was born in Lansing, Michigan, and received degrees from Adrian College, Central Michigan University, with additional work at Michigan State University.

He did his first etchings in 1965 under the supervision of Theo Wujcik at the Center For Creative Arts, in Detroit, Michigan. While a practicing abstract painter, he taught and coached high school basketball and football during the 1960s. From 1974-1978, he was the Director of Art for the Elmira City School District in New York. In 1978 he was elected President of the New York Council of Art Education Administrators. He then retired, moving to Maine where he remains today.

His early influence was from the Abstract Expressionists, especially Robert Motherwell, but he continues to experiment without regard for styles. Known more for his works on paper, and use of non-artistic materials, he is considered by some to be a conceptualist.

He has made prints, drawings and collages on paper that has unique history: some of it dates to as early as the 16th century; some are pages from chess magazines once owned by chess player Bobby Fischer; and some are from discarded documents removed from the wastepaper basket of Nelson Rockefeller.

Slotnick moves in and out of different ways of making art much as Robert Rauschenberg does. Since around 1989 his work shows the influence of Cy Twombly.

In 1991, Slotnick was the sole juror for the Warwick Art Museum [Rhode Island] Annual Exhibition. Two examples of his work were exhibited in AMERICAN WORKS ON PAPER [1991] at Northern Arizona University and Alaska Pacific University.

In 1989, Virginia Mecklenburg, Head Curator, Painting & Sculpture, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian, selected one of his works on paper for inclusion in the 16th Texas Visual Arts Association National Exhibit.

Merv Slotnick [b. 1941] American artist living in Maine. His work is in many collections throughout the United States, Canada, England, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Iceland, Norway, France, Italy, etc. His work has been included in exhibitions at New York University; Maine Biennial; Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY; Mansfield State College, Pa.; Ball State Univ.; Edison Community College, Cape Coral, Florida; Center For The Arts, Midland, Michigan; Central Michigan Univ.; Saginaw Art Museum; Provincetown Art Association; Grand Rapids Art Museum; Battle Creek Arts Center, Mich.; All Michigan Artists Traveling Show [1970-73] which traveled to various colleges & universities in Michigan; Northern Arizona Univ.; Alaska Pacific Univ., plus others.

AWARDS:

1972 - BEST OF SHOW, Central Michigan University,
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
1973 - PURCHASE AWARD, 7th Annual National Art Show, Edison Community College,
Cape Coral, Fl.
1973 - GRAPHICS AWARD, 3rd Annual Small Painting
Exhibition, Albuquerque, New Mexico
1973 - JUROR'S AWARD, Saginaw Art Museum, Saginaw,
Michigan
1974 - BEST OF SHOW, 8th Annual National Art Show, Edison Community College,
Cape Coral, Fl.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

1968 National Art Show, Manchester, N.H.
1970 Kirtland Community College, Roscommon, Mich.
1970 Ball State Univ. Small Drawing Show
1970 Provincetown Art Assoc. Members Show
1970 Ricks College, Idaho

1971 Mid-Michigan Community College
1971 National Art Show, Rock Springs, Wyo.
1971 Creative Arts Gallery, Central Mich. Univ.

1972 Central Mich. Univ. - Best of Show Award
1972 National Art Show, Scottsbluff, Neb.
1972 Saginaw Art Museum, Juried Show
1972 14th Annual Mid-Michigan Exhibition, Center
For The Arts, Midland, Michigan
1973 Grand Rapid Art Museum Biennial, Michigan
1973 Edison Community College, Cape Coral, Fl.
Purchase Award
1973 Saginaw Art Museum, Juror's Award
1973 Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan
1973 3rd Annual Small Painting
Exhibition, Albuquerque, New Mexico
1973 Kalamazoo Valley Community College
1973 Battle Creek [Mich] 100 Show, Civiv Arts Center
1974 8th Annual National Art Show, Edison Community College, Cape Coral, Fl.
1974 Edison Community College, Cape Coral, Fl.
Best of Show Award
1974 Detroit Institute of Technology
1974 Washtennaw Comm. College, Ann Arbor, Mich
1974 Montcalm Comm. College, Sidney, Mich
1975 Elmira College, Elmira, NY
1975 Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY [2-man show]
1976 Ball State Univ. Small Drawing Show

1977 Mansfield State College [Penn] one-man show
1978 Arnot Art Museum, Elmira, NY
1981 Maine Biennial, Univ. of Maine, Gorham, Maine
1982 New York Univ. Small Painting Show
1989 AMERICAN WORKS ON PAPER [1991] at Northern Arizona University
1989 AMERICAN WORKS ON PAPER [1991] at Alaska Pacific University
2003 SANCTUARY exhibition at Concordia College, Morehead, Minn.