

ARTPEOPLE

Rudolph Baranik, a painter, writer and teacher well known in the art world for his political advocacy, died on 6 March in El Dorado, New Mexico outside Santa Fe at the age of 77. He continually fought for painting's sovereignty against those who thought it was dead or irrelevant and argued for its social role against those who thought it should remain above the political fray. He leaves his wife, artist May Stevens.

At the Annual College Art Association Meetings in Toronto, the following awards were presented:

Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe, a Los Angeles-based art critic and editor of *October* magazine, won the Frank Jewett Mather Award for art journalism. Painters **Paul Cadmus** and **Agnes Martin** shared the Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement. The Artist Award for a Distinguished Body of Work was presented to the team **Arakawa/Gins** for their exhibition "Reversible Destiny" at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Elizabeth Cropper and Charles Dempsey, authors of "Nicolas Poussin: Friendship and Love of Painting", won the Charles Rufus Morey Award for a distinguished book in art history.

Roni Horn won the fourth annual CalArts/Alpert Award in visual Arts, worth \$50,000 cash to encourage mid-career artists to take new risks and enable them to reach wider audiences. Horn, of New York City, is a multimedia artist whose drawings, sculpture, photography and installations deal with "identity, the self, gender and the place of the individual body in the world." Among her works is the on-going project, *To Place*, a series of books based on more than two decades of voyages to Iceland.

Marcia Tucker, founding director of the New Museum of Contemporary Art in SoHo, New York City, will be retiring from the museum by the summer of 2000.

Betsey Cushing Whitney, widow of John Hay (Jock) Whitney and prominent philanthropist in medicine and art, died at the age of 89. She was involved with the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and Yale University, among others.

Laila Twigg-Smith, a trustee of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the New Museum of Contemporary Art, art lover, art patroness, died at the age of 53. She was instrumental in starting the Contemporary Arts Center in Honolulu and was active as an exhibition juror, lecturer, curator and teacher there.

David A. Ross, director of New York's Whitney Museum of American Art since 1991, has been appointed director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art as of 1 July. He succeeds John R. Lane, who resigned last September. Ross was previously director of the ICA in Boston for 9 years, an

administrative and curatorial position at the University Art Museum in Berkeley from 1977 - 81, and deputy director for programs at the Long Beach Museum of Art from 1974 - 77.

Beatrice Wood, a ceramic artist known as much for her liaisons with artist Marcel Duchamp, writer Henri-Pierre Roche and others associated with the Dada movement of the early 20th century, earning her the appellation "Mama of Dada", died on 12 March in her home in Ojai, California, at the age of 105.

Richard Koshalek, director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, will be stepping down in the summer of 1999 after almost 17 years at the helm.

Harry Torczyner, writer, lawyer, and promoter of artists, died in March at the age of 87. Through museum and gallery exhibits, Torczyner helped introduce a wider American public to the work of Belgian artists, especially Magritte, to whom he was a friend and adviser.

George Kendall, credited with establishing the MacDowell Colony's reputation in the arts world, died in April at the age of 96.

Frank Lloyd, the Vienna-born entrepreneur who built the Marlborough Gallery in New York into the wealthiest, most important art gallery business in the world and then besmirched his reputation with his criminal role in the Rothko art scandal of the 1970s, died in April at the age of 86.

Bernice Davidson, a historian of Italian Renaissance art who served as research curator at the Frick Collection for more than forty years, died at the age of 70 of cancer.

Bill Reid, who gained international recognition for sculptures based on his Indian heritage, died on 13 March in Vancouver at the age of 78. His mother was of the Haida people of Alaska and British Columbia, while his father was Scottish-American.

Wright Morris, whose Gothic novels, stories, essays and photographs evoked the stark Nebraska landscape, died at the age of 88 in Mill Valley, California. He created five books of annotated photographs which were monumental in their atmospheric allusion to a specific place. And what a writer he was!

Ann Hamilton, installation and performance artist and sculptor, known for her use of beautiful materials, obsessive repetitions and frequent references to the body, has been chosen to represent the United States at the next Venice Biennale. Although the Biennale, according to its normal schedule, would be slated to be in 1999, because of reduction of support by the Italian government, the organizers may postpone the event until

2000 to give them time to raise money from private sources.

Buster Cleveland, as highlighted in the Mail Art News section of Umbrella, died at the age of 55. Famed throughout the world as a consummate mail artist, Cleveland died of heart failure in May.

Dieter Roth, a prolific, reclusive and eccentric German-born artist-provocateur who was famous in Europe but little known in America, died in Basle, Switzerland at the age of 68. He was a sculptor, performance artist, book designer, poet, graphic artist, publisher and musician, sort of. Famed in Los Angeles for his exhibition at Eugenia Butler Gallery with an installation of 40 suitcases filled with different types of cheese, he also often made sculptures out of fugitive materials such as baked dough, chocolate, mayonnaise and rabbit droppings. Their natural deterioration, which he equated with his own death, became an integral part of his art.

But his greatest fame came from his artist books, hundreds of them. One was as small as the eraser on a pencil, another "Literaturwurst", consisted of various periodicals chopped up, mixed with lard and spices and stuffed into a sausage casing.) He knew how to do so many things well, such as printmaking and draughtsmanship, yet there was an amazing energy in his prints and drawings that were of virtuoso status. His only American retrospective was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago in 1984, because the collection came largely from the collection of a friend. His last show in New York City early this year at the Nolan/Eckman Gallery was difficult, because he declined to cooperate. He just never wishes to play the role of the eager artist responding to a gallery or museum.

In his later years, he shuttled between Basle and Iceland, where he lived in a remote house on a lake and also in Reykjavik. Asked how he would like to be remembered after his death, Roth said, "Here lies the carcass of a man who didn't know who he was and where he was heading." Most of us would disagree with this epitaph. He was a great influence on many artists, but he was indeed unique in his multiplicity of talents! (New York Times and Umbrella)

Lúcio Costa, architect and urban planner whose vision of man living in harmony with his tropical surroundings carried Brazilian architecture into the modern age, died in June at the age of 96. Internationally, he was best known as the planner of Brasilia, the futurist Brazilian capital that surged up from the arid savanna in the state of Goias under President Kubitschek in the 1950s.

Herbert Waide Hemphill Jr., a collector and curator whose passion was American folk art and whose taste helped to redefine the field, died in Manhattan at the age of 69 in May. Famous for giving 427 folk artworks to the National Museum of American Art in Washington in

1986, effectively reorienting its approach to American art, Hemphill also was the first curator of the Museum of American Folk Art in New York. His 3,000 objects ranged from 18th and 19th-century paintings, shop signs, carved canes, whirligigs, tramp art, tattoo designs, fraternal objects, bottle-cap animals, and much more.

Jean-François Lyotard, the post-modern French philosopher and prolific author who most recently taught at Emory University in Atlanta, died in April at the age of 73. He strongly influenced art and literary criticism of the last two decades.

Natasha Gelman, who with her husband Jacques, amassed an outstandingly fine group of 20th-century European paintings and sculptures and who was a friend and patron of Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and many other Mexican painters, died in May and left her large collection to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including works by Matisse, Picasso, Leger, Derain, Gris, Braque, Bonnard and Balthus.

Frank O. Gehry, famed architect of such buildings as the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao and the American Center in Paris, was awarded the new Friedrich Kiesler Architecture prize in Vienna (to the tune of \$60,000).

Otto L. Bettman, who fled to New York from Nazi Germany in 1935 with two trunks of prints and photographs and then founded the famous Bettmann Archive, a commercial trove of pictorial material that permeated American popular culture through magazines, newspapers, books and television, died at the age of 94. He sold the archive 17 years ago to Kraus-Thomson Organization, which was added to in 1990 when the archive acquired 11.5 million photographs images, largely from UPS and Reuters. In 1995, Bill Gates, Mr. Microsoft, bought the Archive through his Corbis Corporation to build the foundation of a huge library of digitally stored images that could someday be sampled and sold on computer disks or over computer networks.

Richard Bellamy, a New York art dealer whose Green Gallery was one of the most important showcase of avant-garde art during the early 1960's when American art exploded, died in April at the age of 70. He introduced in first or second shows Claes Oldenburg, Donald Judd, Robert Morris, George Segal, Mark di Suvero, Tom Wesselman, Yayoi Kusama, Larry Poons, Jo Baer, Lee Bontecou and Lucas Samaras, among others.

Renzo Piano, prolific Italian architect best known for his Pompidou Center in Paris and the Menil Collection in Houston, has been awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize for 1998.

Robert Fitzpatrick, former Los Angeles arts executive, director of the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival and founding director of the 1987 offshoot, Los Angeles Festival, has

been appointed director and chief executive officer of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. Currently Dean of the School of the Arts of Columbia University, he has also served as president of EuroDisney in Paris and was president of CalArts from 1975-87.

Jack Biblo, renowned bookseller for more than 50 years as proprietor of the Biblo & Tannen used bookstore on Fourth Avenue in New York City, died in Brooklyn at the age of 91. His passion for reading drove him to open a bookshop in his early years and continue on for decades.

Lois Dodd, Cleve Gray, Richard Hunt, Brice Marden, Louisa Matthiasdottir and Joel Shapiro are the artists recently inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A gold medal was awarded to **Frank Stella**.

MacArthur "genius" Awards have been awarded to the following visual artists: **Janine Antoni, Ida Applebroog, and Gary Hill**.

Loren MacIver, a painter known for her eclectic style as half-abstract landscapes, city views and close-ups of natural forms, as well as a close friend of e.e. cummings, Marianne Moore and Elizabeth Bishop, died in early May at the age of 90.

David Bourdon, 63, art critic, magazine editor and author, died of esophageal cancer in March. He was a past president of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA), author of many books such as one on *Christo* (Abrams 1972), *Calder* (Macmillan, 1980), and *Warhol* (Abrams, 1989) published in four languages. He was an indefatigable art critic.

Georges E. Seligmann, dealer to the major museums around the world, died in May in Manhattan at the age of 102. Clients in New York were J.P. Morgan, George Blumenthal, William Randolph Hearst, among others. Previously he had joined his family's art gallery in Paris, and then joined the Jacques Seligmann Gallery. His own gallery served museums for decades.

William Congdon, abstract artist well known in the 1950s and 60s, died at the age of 86 in Milano, Italy. He was one of the first Americans to enter the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp and made drawings that were later reproduced in a book he wrote about the experience, having been a member of the American field Service. He took up painting after his service in Europe, using poured paint, a spatula, gold dust and even the point of a nail to create a combination of abstract and impressionistic scenes of buildings.

John Gutmann, a painter who left Germany in 1933 and reinvented himself as an optimistic photographic chronicler of Depression-era America, died in San Francisco at 93. His major retrospective, in 1989,

traveled from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art to the Museum of Modern Art in New York and then to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Lois Mailou Jones, an American painter and art teacher for almost 50 years at Howard University in Washington, DC, died at her home at the age of 92 in June. In a career spanning 70 years, she ranged from impressionistic landscapes to political allegories and from cubistic depictions of African sculptures to realistic portraits.

Wolf Vostell, German artist and one of the leading figures in the Fluxus movement and in the Happening, died of heart failure on 3 April in Berlin. By the mid-1950s, he had already carried out his first public performances and made his first torn-poster collages. Based in Cologne, he became closely allied to Fluxus and staged Happenings in Europe and in the U.S. In 1971 he moved to Berlin, but was never fully accepted by Berlin's art establishment. He engaged in drawings, paintings, collages, assemblages, installations, and of course happenings. He also was one of the first to incorporate TV monitors and video imagery into his installations. A full retrospective of his work was mounted in 1992 by six museums in the Rhine region. A small Vostell museum exists in Malpartida de Cáceres, Spain, where he spent part of each year. Look for the interview *Umbrella* did with Vostell in the 20th Anniversary Anthology to be published later this year.

Jean H. Lipman, art patron, collector, author of 26 art books and longtime editor of *Art in America*, died in June at the age of 88. She and her husband were active collectors of contemporary American sculpture; much of their collection now resides at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

William Ivey, folklorist, musician, teacher, writer, and arts administrator, was confirmed and has taken up his new role as Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The artists who have been awarded the first Visual Artists Awards from the Pasadena-based Flintridge Foundation, honoring 12 Los Angeles and San Francisco-based artists totalling \$300,000 to **Chris Burden, John Divola, Noah Purifoy, Nancy Rubins and Betye Saar** from Southern California, and **Lynne Hershman, David Ireland, Tom Marioni, Ron Nagle, Mark Thompson, Carlos Villa and Al Wong**, from the North.

Joyce Wieland, outspoken Canadian painter, sculptor, quilter and filmmaker, died at the age of 66 of Alzheimer's disease. She was the first living female artist to be given a solo exhibition, "True Patriot Love" at the National Gallery of Canada in 1971. It was then that she exhibited her legendary quilts quoting Pierre Trudeau's famous motto, "Reason Over Passion." In

1987, Wieland became the first living female artist to have a retrospective at the Art Gallery of Ontario. It was a success, but she pointed out that the only reason she got it was because she demanded it. Considered a visionary artist who demanded her rightful place in Canada's art scene, she became a role model for other female artists and women generally.

Gloria F. Ross, renowned tapestry maker who worked with Robert Motherwell, Louise Nevelson, Jean Dubuffet, Frank Stella, Jack Youngerman, Romare Bearden and more in order to create contemporary wall hangings, died in Manhattan at 74.

Lee Mullican, the abstract "Dynaton" surrealist known for his homage to Native American art and painting with the edge of a palette knife, died in early July at the age of 79. He was part of the Dynaton school consisting of himself, Wolfgang Paalen and Gordon Onslow Ford. Mullican was a professor and curator at UCLA, and is the father of Matt Mullican.

Praemium Imperiale awards have been given to architect **Alvaro Siza**, Israeli sculptor **Dani Karavan**, American painter **Robert Rauschenberg**, among others. Given by the Japan Art Association, the \$110,000 prizes honor those in artistic fields not covered by the Nobel Prize.

Nam June Paik, New York-based video artist and pioneer, has won Japan's prestigious Kyoto Prize for lifetime achievement in the "creative arts and moral sciences." The \$350,000 prize, presented annually by the Imamori Foundation, recognizes individuals who "have made significant contributions to the betterment of humanity." Previously recipients have included artist Roy Lichtenstein, director Akira Kurosawa, architect Renzo Piano and composer John Cage.

