

Robert M. Ellis

Robert M. Ellis Art Collection Trustee: Wendy Shannon 505.228.0006
www.robertmellis.com robertmellisart@gmail.com

During a career spanning 73 years Robert Ellis created a rich and acclaimed body of Mid-Century Modern art. The vibrant arc of his style reflects the influences of his mid-western origins, overseas service in WWII, years in Mexico City, and residencies across Europe. The influence of each of these life experiences is echoed in a wide array of media: painting, paper, sculpture, wood and lithography.

EDUCATION

University of Southern California MFA, 1950 - 1952
Mexico City College, Mexico City BA, 1948-1950
Cleveland School of Art, 1946- 1948, Graduate
US Navy, 1942-1946
Western Reserve University, School of Architecture 1940-1942

AWARDS

2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from Peter and Madeleine Martin Foundation, Taos, NM
2008 Wurlitzer Foundation Residency Program, January 15 – April 8, Taos, NM
1998 New Mexico Governor's Award for Individual Support of The Arts, Albuquerque, NM
1997 Regents Meritorious Service Medal from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
1997 Special Recognition Award of the University of New Mexico, Taos
Who's Who In American Art, Who's Who in The Southwest, Who's Who In America

COLLECTIONS (selected)

1% for the Arts, University of New Mexico Hospital, Albuquerque, NM
Albuquerque Public Art, Albuquerque Convention Center, Bernalillo County, NM
Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM
Amoco Production Company, Houston, Texas
Herbert F. Johnson Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Mountain Bell Collection, Albuquerque, NM
Museum of Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM
Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM
Museum of Fine Art, University of Utah
US West Collection, Denver, CO.
University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, NM
Roswell Museum, Roswell, NM
Robert Walz & Associates, Oakland, CA.
Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN.
Lytton Savings & Loan, Hollywood, CA. (mural)
De La Borda Hotel, Taxco, Mexico (mural)
Donald A. Reichmann Memorial Collection of Original Graphics, Albuquerque Public Library, Albuquerque, NM
Numerous Private Collections

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 Iterations, The Robert M. Ellis Art Collection Trust, Albuquerque, NM
2016 The Endless Race, The Harwood Museum, Taos, NM
2013 Aegean Reverie, Works from 2004-2012, 333 Montezuma Arts, Santa Fe, NM
2010 Bob Ellis Recent Work, Woodcuts/Works on Wood, Exhibit 208, Albuquerque, NM
2006 Dwight Hackett Projects, Santa Fe, NM
2000 Jaquelin Loyd Contemporary Gallery, Taos, NM
1991 The University of New Mexico Art Museum (Retrospective), Albuquerque, NM
1991 Cafe Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
1991 Contemporary Exhibitions/Philip Bareiss Fine Arts, Taos, NM
1986 Kauffman Galleries, Houston, TX
1981 Wildine Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
1978 David Stuart Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1977 Hills Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
1997 White Oak Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
1975 James Yu Gallery, New York, NY
1964 Jonson Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
1964 Hollis Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1962 Ester Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1961 Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, CA
1958 Occidental College Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (selected)

2020 Transitions: Group Exhibition, April Price Project Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
2019 Perspectives: April Price Project Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
2016 Continuum: Brave New World & Art-As-Art, Harwood Museum, Taos, NM
2012 California Design, 1930-1965: Living in a Modern Way Exhibition, for book design, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA
2008 Friends! Exhibition at the UNMH Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
2006 Contemporary Art Society Honors Exhibition, Artspace 116, Albuquerque, NM
2004 New Mexico Cancer Center Foundation Spring Exhibition, Albuquerque, NM
2003 En Celebracio de Muerte, Taos Historic Museums, Taos NM
1998 The Taos National Exhibition of American Watercolor IV, Taos NM
1991 Live From Taos, The Design Center of New Mexico, Taos, NM; Russell Senate Rotunda, Washington, D.C.; Buffalo Gallery, Alexandria, VA
1990 Back and White Works by Important Contemporary Artists, Taos NM
1988 Modern Monoprints, An Exhibition of Monotypes, Kimo Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
1986 Statements, A Perspective on Contemporary Art in New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
1986 Landscape Invitational (ten artists) Kron/Reck Gallery, Albuquerque, NM
1985 Statements, A Perspective on Contemporary Art in New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
1984 Gallery Artist Exhibition, Jill Youngblood Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1984 Lithographs from Tamarind Institute, Governor's Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
1983 Images of Ranchos Church. Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM
1979 Attitudes: Photography in the 1970's, National Invitational, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
1977 You Gotta Live Somewhere, Invitational, Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler, TX

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1977 Made in New Mexico, Contemporary Print Invitational, Museum of Fine Arts, SF, NM
1977 Packard Gallery, Akron, OH
1976 Southwest Biennial, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM
1976 James Yu Gallery, New York, NY
1976 You Gotta Draw The Line Somewhere, Hills Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
1974 Randolph Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, VA
1973 New Mexico Biennial, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM
1963 Art of Southern California XII, Long Beach Museum. Circulated by Western States Association of Art Museums, Long Beach, CA
1962-4 Light, Space, Mass. Traveling three persons exhibition. Circulated by Western States, Association of Art Museums. (Robert Cremean, Gerd Koch, Robert Ellis)
1962 Third Annual of California Painting, La Jolla Museum, La Jolla, CA
1960 3 Painters, Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1960 California Painters, Stables Gallery, Taos, NM
1959 Three Abstractionists, Everett Ellen Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. (Jim Forsberg, Will Barnett, Robert Ellis)
1959 Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (two artists)
1959 Los Angeles County Museum Annual, Los Angeles, CA
1958 Artists of Southern California II, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA
1957 New Painting Exhibition, 17 West Coast Painters, Occidental College Art Gallery, L.A. Fullerton Junior College (six artists), Fullerton, CA

TEACHING

1987-2014 Professor Emeritus, Department of Art and Art History, University of New Mexico
1990-2002 Director, The Harwood Museum, Taos, NM
1964-1987 Professor, The University of New Mexico, Department of Art and Art History
1968-1971 Director, The University of New Mexico, University Art Museum
1964-1968 Assistant Director, The University of New Mexico, University Art Museum
1956-1964 Curator of Education, Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California

RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

1999 Organized endowment campaign for Harwood Museum. By 2001 the endowment held over two million dollars.
1995-98 Oversaw the renovation and expansion of The Harwood Museum from two to seven galleries. Raised approximately one million dollars for the final capital improvements of one and a half million. Supervised the reinstallation of the permanent collection.
1998 Member, Site Santa Fe Advisory Board
1998 Awards juror for The National Exhibition for American Watercolor IV, Taos, NM
1996 Spearheaded the founding of the Harwood Museum Alliance, a membership organization devoted to fundraising for the museum.
1995 Juror, Eleventh Annual Student Exhibition, College of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM
1994 Conceived and negotiated the gift by Agnes Martin of seven paintings to the Harwood Museum for a permanent gallery installation
1993 Invited artist, Monothon, College of Santa Fe, NM
1987-90 Board member Taos Art Association
1986 Founding board member of the Contemporary Art Society, Albuquerque, NM

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1977-84 Board member, Artspace Magazine, a Southwestern contemporary arts magazine.
1980 Designed and produced poster for National Endowment for the Arts, Visual Arts Program, Washington, DC
1976-78 Chairman, Visual Arts Grants Panel for the New Mexico Arts Division, Alb., NM
1975 Served on Visual Arts Selection Panel for the National Endowment for The Arts, Washington DC
1974-78 Board member, International Folk Art Foundation, Santa Fe, NM
1973 Regional Consultant for The National Endowment for The Arts, Washington, DC
1973 One Person juror, Kansas Arts Biennial, Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS
1970 One Person juror, Arizona Annual, Phoenix Museum of Art, Phoenix, AZ
1970 Guest artist, Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM
1960 Commissioned to paint a 16' mural for Lytton Savings & Loan Bldg, Hollywood, CA
1959 Nominated for "New Talent in US" Award

CURATORIAL (selected)

-The Harwood Foundation of The University of New Mexico/ Taos 1923-1993: History and Collection, 1993. Designed and co-authored this brief history and collection listing published on the seventieth anniversary of the Harwood Foundation.
-Louis Ribak, The Late Drawings, The Harwood Museum, 1992, catalog for exhibition of thirty-six drawings.
-Melissa Zink, Journeys 1977-1990, 1990. Guest Curator for the Taos Art Association Exhibition of twenty works by Melissa Zink, catalog essay and design.
-Creative Camera Magazine, August 1972, Luncheon on the Grass with Bob and Model
-Ilya Bolotowsky, Paintings and Columns, University of New Mexico Art Museum, 1970.
-Organized the first major exhibition of Bolotowsky's works, including thirty-five paintings and five columns from the years 1957 through 1969. Exhibition traveled to four museums.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (selected)

Melody Romancito, Review, Robert Ellis in Taos, Tempo: The Arts & Entertainment Magazine of The Taos News, October 5, 2000.
Virginia L. Clark, Review, Many will miss Robert Ellis: Harwood Museum Director Looks Forward to Retirement, Tempo: The Arts & Entertainment Magazine of The Taos News, May 31 2001.
James A. Moore, Robert M. Ellis/A Painter's Space, Paintings and Works on Paper 1951-1990, University of New Mexico Art Museum catalog, 1991
Joanne Forman, Ellis Comes Home, The Taos News, March 28, 1991.
Viewpoints, poster for benefit art auction, Department of Art and History, University of New Mexico, 1987
Spirit and Vision, Images of Ranchos de Taos Church, Museum of New Mexico Press, 1987
KNME-TV (public television), Artist of the Month, April 24" x24" poster plus monthly program cover, 1985
Vivian Milfors, Review, Albuquerque Journal, December 6, 1981
Attitudes: Photography in the 1970's, Santa Barbara Museum, CA, color slide insert in catalog, 1979

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Reflections of Realism, catalog, Albuquerque Museum, 1979
Louise Lewis, Review, Artweek, Vol. 9, No. 36, October 28, 1978
Albuquerque Artists I, catalog, Albuquerque Museum, 1978
Jenny Lusk. Review, Albuquerque Journal, November 20, 1977
Southwest Biennial Catalog, Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, NM 1976
John Gruen. Review, Soho Weekly News, June 12, 1975
Mary Jane Mayer. New Ways of Collage, Van Nostrand and Reinhold, pp. 66-71, 1973
Dean Wallace. Review, San Francisco Chronicle, May 24, 1964
Third Art Center Annual of California Painting and Sculpture, catalog, La Jolla Art Center, CA.
1964
Henry Hopkins, Review, Art Forum, Vol. 1, No. 7, 1962
Light, Space, Mass, catalog, for traveling exhibition, circulated by Western Association of Art
Museums, 1962.
Jules Langsner. Review, Art International, November 1961.
Arts of Southern California, catalog, Long Beach Museum, 1958.

TRAVELS

2007 Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Paris (three weeks)
1996 London and Scotland
1972 Holland, Belgium and Germany
1970 Holland, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and France