

# MARY HENRY (1913 – 2009)

## BIOGRAPHY

**Birthplace:** Calistoga, Calif., 1913.

**Education:** Ms. Henry earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, Calif., and a Master of Arts at the Institute of Design, Chicago, where she was a favorite student of László Moholy-Nagy.

**Major exhibitions:** Ms. Henry's artwork is in numerous collections including the Portland Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, the Institute of Design (Chicago), the Whatcom Museum, Microsoft, Safeco, Amgen, and Hewlett-Packard. She was the focus of a major retrospective in 2007 at the Wright Exhibition Space in Seattle, curated by Matthew Kangas. Her work is represented by Howard House Contemporary Art in Seattle, Aaron Gallery in Chicago, and PDX Contemporary Art in Portland, where her work was recently on exhibit (May 5-May 30, 2009). Her forthcoming exhibition at the Sun Valley Center for the Arts, curated by Courtney Gilbert (Aug. 7-Oct. 2, 2009), will feature her large-scale paintings as well as her delicate constructivist figure drawings from the WPA era.

**Awards:** She was the 2006 recipient of the Twining Humber Lifetime Achievement Award and 2001 Flintridge Foundation Award and was a featured poster artist for the Seattle Corporate Council for the Arts.

## EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1938

Bachelor of Fine Arts, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA

1938-40

Federal Art Project, Oakland, CA

1940-43

Instructor, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

1941

Studied lithography, San Francisco School of Fine Arts

1945-46

Master of Arts, Institute of Design, Chicago, IL, studied with L. Moholy-Nagy

1950-55

Member, Sign, Scene, Pictorial Painters Union, Local 510

1976

Master Painters class with Jack Tworkov, Centram Foundation, Port Townsend, WA

1981

Monotype workshop with Michael Mazur, Centram Foundation, Port Townsend, WA

1988

Art Consultant: Perspectives of New Music

## **AWARDS**

2006 Twining Humber Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement, Artist Trust, Seattle, WA  
2001 Award for Visual Arts, Flintridge Foundation, Pasadena, CA

## **SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2009

"Paintings & Drawings," PDX Across the Hall at PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR  
"Modern Parallels: Mary Henry and Helen Lundeberg," Sun Valley Center for the Arts,  
Ketchum, ID

2007

Howard House, Seattle, WA  
Wright Exhibition Space, Seattle, WA

2005

"Mary Henry: American Constructivist," Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette  
University, Salem, OR  
Schneider Museum of Art, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR  
Bryan Ohno Gallery, Seattle, WA

2002

Lorinda Knight Gallery, Spokane, WA

2001

"In The Gardens of Myth and Logic," Museum of Northwest Art, La Connor, WA  
"North Slope Paintings," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA  
"No Limits," Bellevue Art Museum, Four Wall Mural, Bellevue, WA  
"Modern Master Works," Brian Ohno Gallery, Seattle, WA

2000

"Mary Henry, Paintings 1968 and 1998," PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR

1997

"The Geometric Tradition in American Art," Meyerson/Nowinski Gallery, Seattle, WA

1995

"Selected Paintings," Linda Cannon Gallery, Seattle, WA

1993

"Mary Henry, Non-objective Works," Cliff Michel Gallery, Seattle, WA

1992

Tacoma Art Museum, Barbara Johns, Curator, Tacoma, WA

1990

"Mary Henry/Robert Maki/Al Held," Cliff Michel Gallery, Seattle, WA

1989

"Mary Henry: New Constructs," Cliff Michel Gallery, Seattle, WA

1988

"Mary Henry: Paintings and Drawings," Richard L. Brown, Curator, Pacific Lutheran  
University, Parkland, WA

"Mary Henry: Selected Works," John Olbrantz, Curator, Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Bellingham, WA

1988

Los Altos Hills City Hall, Los Altos Hills, CA

Childer/Proctor Gallery, Langley, WA

Arthead Gallery, Seattle, WA

1987

History Center Archives, De Anza College, Sunnyvale, CA

1986

Childer/Proctor Gallery, Langley, WA

1984

Open Space, Matthew Kangas, Curator, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

1975

Wilkinson/Cobb Gallery, Mendocino, CA

1971

Sterling Associates, Palo Alto, CA

1970

Sonoma State College, Cotati, CA

1969

Arleigh Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1968

Ampex Corporation, Redwood City, CA

1967

Ampex Corporation, Redwood City, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2007

"California College of Art & Craft: 100 Years in the Making," Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

"Mixed Company," PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR

"Circle, Square, Triangle," Archer Gallery, Clark College, Vancouver, WA

2006

"Portland Modern," curated by Kristan Kennedy and Matthew Stadler, Disjecta, Portland, OR

2005

"Matriarchs of Modernism," The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Portland, OR

"Next PDX Artists," PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR

2004-05

"Northwest Matriarchs of Modernism: Twelve Proto-feminists from Oregon and Washington," Curated by Lois Allen. The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, OR; Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA; Hallie Ford Museum, Salem, OR; Schneider Museum of Art, Ashland, OR.

2003-04

"International Abstraction: Making Painting Real," Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA

2003

"City Space, Variations of Abstraction: Selections from the City of Seattle's Portable Collection," City Space, Seattle, WA  
2001

"Abstracts on Paper and Mixed Media," PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR  
Bryan Ohno Gallery: 5th Anniversary Celebration, Seattle, WA  
2000

Hillwood Art Museum, Long Island University, New York  
Annual Show, American Abstract Artists Group, Brookville, NY  
Bumberbiennale, Matthew Kangas, curator Seattle Arts Festival, Seattle, WA  
1999

"Paintings and Drawings," PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR  
1998

"Hands on Color," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA; Brain Wallace, curator  
"Group Abstract Geometric Show," PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR  
1997

Gallery Artists, PDX Contemporary Art, Portland, OR  
"Drawings... An Annual Bi-coastal Invitational," Meyerson & Nowinski Art Associates,  
Seattle, WA  
"Square Painting/Plane Painting," curated by Lauri Chamber. Catalogue. Center on  
Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA  
1996

"American Abstract Artists," Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY  
"American Abstract Artists 60th Anniversary Exhibition," Kean College, Union, NJ.  
Catalogue.  
1995

Art Fair, Linda Cannon Gallery, Seattle, WA  
CoCA Folie a Deux, Seattle, WA  
"100 Painters, 100 Years," Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, WA  
1994

"Selections from the Northwest Collection," Tacoma Art Museum, Seattle, WA  
"Eyes on Public Work," Curated by Matthew Kangas, Seattle City Light Portable Works  
Collections, Seattle, WA  
Seattle Center Modern Art Pavilion, Seattle, WA  
"The Persistence or Abstraction, American Abstract Artists Annual Exhibition," The  
Noyes Museum, Oceanville, NJ  
The Linda Cannon Gallery, Seattle, WA  
Institut de Artes Visual, Palacio Pombal, Lisbon, Portugal  
1993

"The Persistence of Abstraction," The Noyes Museum, American Abstract Artists,  
Oceanville, N.J.  
1992

"The Persistence of Abstraction," Edwin A Ulrich Museum of Art, American Abstract  
Artists 56th  
Annual Exhibition, Wichita State University, Whittier, KS

"Northwest Annual," Paula Cooper, Juror, Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, WA  
Casa Argentina en Israel, Tierra Santa, Jerusalem, Israel

1991

Summer Salon, Cliff Michel Gallery, Seattle, WA

"Abstraction 1: Focus on Form," Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, OR

"The Big and the Small of it," Cliff Michel, Curator, Northview Gallery, Portland  
Community College, Portland, OR

National Governor's Associations Exhibition of Washington State Artists, Washington  
State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA

1990

"Mary Henry / Robert Maki / Al Held," Cliff Michel Gallery, Seattle, WA

1989

"Bumberbiennale: Decade of Abstraction 1979-1989," Matthew Kangas, Curator, A  
Bumbershoot Visual Arts Exhibition, Seattle Center, Seattle, WA

Northwest Annual, Leon Golub and Nancy Spero, Jurors, Center on Contemporary Art,  
Seattle, WA

Tacoma Art Museum, 100 Years of Washington Art, Tacoma, WA Penelope Loucas,  
Curator

1988

Illinois Institute of Technology, Institute of Design Alumni Exhibition, Chicago, IL

1987

Seattle Center, Bumberbiennale: Seattle Sculpture 1927-1987, A Bumbershoot Visual  
Arts

Exhibition, Seattle, WA, Matthew Kangas, Curator

1985

Seattle Center, Bumberbiennale: Seattle Painting 1925-1985, A Bumbershoot Visual Arts  
Exhibition,

Seattle, WA, Matthew Kangas, Curator

1984

Seattle Center, SIZE, A Bumbershoot Visual Arts Exhibition, Seattle, WA, Matthew  
Kangas, Curator

1981

Henry Art Gallery, Shapes as Ideas: Abstraction, University of Washington, Seattle, WA,  
Harvey West, Curator

1980

Gallery Diane Gilson, Seattle, WA

Soames-Dunn Building, Pike Place Market, Salon des Refuses 1980, Seattle, WA,  
Matthew Kangas, Curator

1976

Wilinson/Cobb Gallery, Mendocino, CA

1971

Palo Alto Cultural Center, Palo Alto, CA

1970

Sterling Associates, Palo Alto, CA

1949

San Francisco Museum of Art, Thirteenth Annual Exhibition of Drawings and Prints, San Francisco, CA

1948

Harvard University, School of Architecture, Cambridge, MA

1943

San Francisco Museum of Art, Seventh Annual Exhibition of Drawings and Prints, San Francisco, CA

A.C.A. Gallery, New York, NY

1942

Joslyn Memorial Museum, Omaha, NE

1941

San Francisco Museum of Art, Annual Exhibition of Paintings, San Francisco, CA

1938

Oakland Art Museum, Painting Annual, Oakland, CA

## **Selected Bibliography**

2007

Farr, Sheila, Mary Henry: 93 years of life and art, Seattle Times, February 23

Faigin, Gary, Mary Henry at Wright Exhibition Space through March 30; Mary Henry Howard House through March 15, artdish, February 15

Hackett, Regina, Artist fuses geometric abstractions in a celebration of life, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 2

2004

Allan, Lois, Northwest Matriarchs of Modernism: Twelve Proto-feminists from Oregon and Washington catalog for traveling exhibit

D.K. Row, review of Hallie Ford Museum exhibit at Willamette University, The Oregonian, December 4

Blake, Victoria, Mary Henry at Hallie Ford Museum, The Oregonian, December 13

2000

Gragg, Randy, Critic's Choice, The Oregonian, January 8, illus.

Gragg, Randy, Abstract Attraction of Mary Henry, The Oregonian, January 31, illus.

1996

Corporate Council of the Arts Annual Poster Award, Standard

1995

Ted Lindberg, Living for Geometry, Mary Henry Constructivist Paintings, Reflex, December

1993

Regina Hackett, Review of Tacoma Art Museum, Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Regina Hackett, Hope to Technology, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, January 4

Lyn Smallwood, Shape Shifters, Seattle Weekly, February 17

Lois Allan, Westwood Elders Filtering Experiences, Reflex, March/April

1992

Matthew Kangas, Mary Henry: American Constructivist, *Woman's Art Journal*, Vol. 12, Fall 1991 / Winter 1992, illus. with color cover  
Regina Hackett, review of Northwest Annual at Center on Contemporary Art, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*  
Matthew Kangas, review of Mary Henry Paintings and Drawings, *The Seattle Times*, December 11  
1991  
Laura Brunsman, review of Cliff Michel Gallery exhibition, *Reflex*, January-February, illus.  
Randy Gragg, Critics Choice, *The Oregonian*, January 8, illus.  
Randy Gragg, Abstract Attraction of Mary Henry, *The Oregonian*, January 31, illus.  
1990  
Matthew Kangas, Meditations on Proportion, review of Cliff Michel Gallery exhibition, *Artweek*, November 22, illus.  
1989  
Hackett, Regina, review of Center on Contemporary Art Northwest Annual, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*  
Smallwood, Lyn, Mary Henry, Seattle, Cliff Michel Gallery, *ARTnews*, November, illus.  
Matthew Kangas, Bumberbiennale: Decade of Abstraction 1979 – 1989, *The Arts-Newsletter of the King County Arts Commission*, August, illus.  
Hackett, Regina review of Cliff Michel Gallery exhibition, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, August, 18, illus.  
1988  
Brown, Richard L., Mary Henry: Paintings and Drawings, curatorial statement, Pacific Lutheran University  
Kangas, Matthew, Bellingham, Washington: Mary Henry at the Whatcom Museum, *Art in America*, November, illus.  
Kellogg, Marjorie, Town of Los Altos Hills Newsletter  
Kellogg, Marjorie, Los Altos Hills Muralist, *Town Crier*, April 20, illus.  
Olbrantz, John, Mary Henry: Selected Work, curatorial statement, Whatcom Museum of History and Art  
Kangas, Matthew, Mary Henry: American Constructivist, review of Pacific  
1987  
Kangas, Matthew, Bumberbiennale: Seattle Painting 1927 – 1987. Seattle: Bumbershoot  
Kangas, Matthew, Bumberbiennale: Seattle Sculpture 1927 – 1987. Seattle:  
Bumbershoot  
1985  
Eastlick, Lorinda, ...artist produces bold, powerful murals, *South Whidbey Record*, September 24  
1984  
Kangas, Matthew, S I Z E. Seattle: Bumbershoot  
Schnoor, Christopher R., September Art, *VISION*, Fall  
1981  
West, Harvey, *The Washington Year 1980-1981*, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington

1971

Weaver, Gay M., Mary Henry Paintings Decorative, Palo Alto Times, November 6

Anonymous, Palo Alto Times, October 22

1969

French, Palmer D., review of Arleigh Gallery exhibition, Artforum, October, illus.

Anonymous, review of Arleigh Gallery exhibition, Palo Alto Times, July 29

Anonymous, review of Sterling Associates exhibition, West Art, November 5



**“Henry's paintings are characterized by crisp, clean lines and an unemotional use of color, highlighting an extraordinary intellectual clarity. Working from small-scale sketches, [she] perfected her compositions and color choices before moving on to larger scale canvasses. Like Zen koans, Henry's work explored depth and profundity through simplicity and balance.”**

Billy Howard, Howard House