

Issue 12
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Abstract Expressionism: Robert Motherwell

Robert Motherwell (1915 – 1991) was a U.S. Painter, the youngest of the artists originally associated with Abstract Expressionism. His early training was in art history and aesthetics. He studied painting with the Chilean Surrealist Matta in Mexico.

His first one-man show was at Peggy Guggenheim's gallery "The Art of this Century" (1944). Soon after he became famous with his series known as *Elegies to the Spanish Republic*: (see below) horizontal paintings with black vertical Arp-like forms, alternatively large and small, also reminiscent of late Matisse cutouts.



He taught at Black Mountain College, NC (from 1945) and Hunter College, NY (1951 – 1958).

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth houses the largest collection of Motherwell's works. The Empire State Plaza holds some of his work.

He was awarded the National Medal of the Arts in 1989.

He was married to artist Helen Frankenthaler as his third wife, whom he later divorced.



Featured Artist: Amanda Rae (Scotland/U.K.)

Amanda's sculptures are influenced by theories about the underlying pattern and beauty inherent in the nature and organization of matter, energy, and information. Many of her works express concern for ecological issues, and the materials she uses are experimental. This is not self-consciously trying out new styles, influences are mindfully drawn together and pursued with a persistent intensity.



Amanda spent most of her childhood surreptitiously running wild on the Essex salt marshes. Her education at that time was "erratic". As she began to experience different cultures and environments through travel, she developed a hunger for the skills needed to create artworks that represented her relationship with the environment.



She became a mature student and achieved a National Certificate in Art/Design and Craft at Shetland College. She then went on to study in the Hebrides and completed the 1st and 2nd year of a B.A. in fine art with Lews Castle College at Taigh Chearsabhagh North Uist. The environmental focus of the course was inspiring, looking closely at the physical landscape of the island, the use of materials as well as the elements of wind, water, and light, and also man's intervention and place within the environment. She is currently studying at Moray College

Elgin taking her 3rd year of a B.A. in Fine Art.

What I've Been Up to Lately:

I've ordered some paints and canvases and am going to start setting up my garage/studio within the week at the new place. I am back to a two-car garage, which will be great. The last house's one-car garage made me feel cramped and unhappy. I should be painting again in a few weeks. I am a little wary, since it has been a year. I am afraid I won't know what to do, that the natural process will be gone. I am sure I will have high expectations of myself and will be very critical and discouraged if I don't live up to them.

Oh - I received a box of paints yesterday from Dick Blick. They had been packaged incompetently, and when I opened the package there was copper paint all over everything. I was a little annoyed. I called to complain and get compensated. It worked. As my Mom says, you never know unless you ask.

Poem of the Month:

Embers

I am the embers of the fire
 I function better in a blaze
 In a parallel universe, I am a match
 And clawing at you like a falling man
 on a rock
 The numbness awaits the beating of
 the drum
 And the shaman is silent and oh so
 patient
 Grains of sand meticulously placed
 But the big picture
 is still to come.
 I wait as my log becomes cold and
 unfriendly
 damp from the rain
 Wishing it would catch fire again.

2007

Quote of the Month:

"I have always tried to hike my efforts and wished my works to have the light joyousness of springtime which never lets anyone suspect the labors it has cost." - Henry Matisse (1869-1954)