

Robert Perillat

1922 - 1991

Abstract
Expressionism

Acrylic on Canvas

“I am very much aware of the premium the art world places on style, and unfortunately, most artist’s work I see in the galleries is the result of a cleverness without intuition, self-repetition without creation, method without madness, instant recognition without substance. I prefer the loneliness of the long distance runner.

I guess I’m old enough to want to uncover the treasure for my own sake. I want the *thing* itself. The fame... the fortune... will come, I’m sure, but it’s only secondary to what I thirst for - the full birth of myself into the world as a true and complete artist.

It’s been a long, long journey. No part of it do I regret and nothing of it has been wasted. I am profoundly thankful to life for giving me so much and above all, for moving me so deeply in so many ways”

- Robert Perillat 1990



“N.Y. City”

1980 48"x66"



“Beach Ball”

1979 46"x57"



“Clockwork Orange”

1980 53"x67"



(untitled)

1990 68"x77"



“Dancers”

1990 64"x79"



“Bon Voyage”

1980 52"x67"



“Ladder #2”

1990 76"x99"



“Twenty Three”

1980 55"x66"



“The Barn Window”

1981 58"x64"



“In Memorium-Kent State”

1981 48"x68"



“ART”

1990 67"x87"



“Deer Park #7”

1990 45"x56"



“Resurrection”

1980 48"x67



“Jack Of Diamonds”

1979 33"x44"



“Panels #10”

1990 53"x64"



(untitled)

1979 45"x56"



“Starburst”

1990 61"x67"



(untitled)

1990 52"x60"



(untitled)

1990 61"x62"



(untitled)

1990 64"x72"

Robert Perillat was born in Seattle, Washington on December 5th 1922, and spent his childhood in Santa Rosa, California. At 23 years of age, he received his B.A. from St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, California. In 1951 he received his M.A., and in 1958 he completed his PhD in Philosophy, both at the University of Notre Dame, in Indiana. His 1958 dissertation "St. Thomas Aquinas On Principal Of Subsistence (The Condition Of Remaining In Existence)" was the first and only time a dissertation was recommended for publication through the college of Notre Dame.

He began his teaching career in 1954 as an Asst. Prof. of Philosophy at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame. He continued there until 1962, when he accepted an appointment as an Asst. Prof. of Philosophy at The College of New Rochelle, New York. In 1967, he was appointed Asst. Prof. of Philosophy at The State University of New York at Albany. In 1968 he began an appointment as Vice President of Student Affairs at Russell Sage College in Troy, New York.

He left academia in 1969 at the age of 47 to focus primarily on painting, and moved into a cabin on Maverick Road, in Woodstock, NY. Rauschenberg and Johns were especially influential during this period, and Perillat's work exhibited gains in conceptual sophistication and mastery of materials. Most of his works from this ten-year period he left behind, and their whereabouts remain unknown.

Perillat returned to the west coast and settled in Stinson Beach, California in 1975. Over the next several years he produced over a hundred large abstract acrylic paintings (some of which he considered unsatisfactory and selectively destroyed), and scores of plein-air watercolors and sand-cast plaster collages (constructed in-situ on the beach, from found objects).

In 1981 Perillat returned to New York City. In an industrial loft in Brooklyn, just over the Williamsburg Bridge from Manhattan, he began the most intense and productive period of his artistic life. There he was able to visit many galleries on a regular basis, allowing him to maintain a close eye on the New York art scene. The size of his canvasses grew, afforded by the large loft space.

He waded through a number of stylistic series, and expanded his scope of color and pattern, with an occasional mindful eye to the representational abstraction. He twice entered the annual citywide juried competition, “Discoveries”, which sought to reveal under-known older artists. Perillat received first prize awards in 1986 & 1988, both curated by Village Voice critic Peter Frank.

Robert Perillat passed away in April of 1991.

Awards

1959 - 1st Place, Sculpture award Notre Dame given by Eugene Korendi & Ivan Mestrovic

1988 - 1st place, Arsenal Central Park, curated by Peter Frank.
Award given by, Ms. Susan Hirschfield, Assoc. Curator of the Guggenheim Museum.

1990 - 1st place, Arsenal Central Park, curated by Peter Frank & Constance Bangs Award given by, Ms. Susan Hirschfield, Assoc. Curator of the Guggenheim Museum.

Group Shows

1984 -York College Art, Jamaica, N.Y

1985 - All Fool Show, Williamsburg Bridge Artists, Brooklyn, N.Y.

1985 - Louis K. Meisel Gallery, N.Y.C.

1988 - Arsenal, Central Park, N.Y.C.

1990 - Arsenal, Central Park, N.Y.C.

Solo shows

1977- Diana Fuller Gallery, San Francisco, Ca.

1978 - E.B. Crocker Gallery, Sacramento, Ca.

1978 - Bruner's Fine Arts, Santa Rosa, Ca.

1982 - York College Art, Jamaica, N.Y.C.

Solo Shows after Death

2004 - City Arts, Point Arena CA

2004 - Celeste Gallery, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

2006 - Les Fauve Gallery, Schuylerville, N.Y.

2007 - Riverfront Studio Two, Schuylerville, N.Y.

2007- Fletcher Gallery, Woodstock, N.Y.

Appraised By

Mr. Solomon of Pace Gallery, N.Y.C.

Mr. David McKee of McKee Gallery, N.Y.C.



[Robert Perillat Web Site](#)