

Anne Truitt:

Abstract Expressionist, Minimalist, and Pioneer.



Biography



Anne Truitt was born Anne Dean in 1921 in Baltimore, Maryland. She spent her childhood in Easton on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and in 1943 she graduated cum laude with a B.A. degree in psychology from Bryn Mawr College.

Truitt married James McConnell Truitt in 1947 and moved from Boston to Washington, D.C., where he worked in the State Department while she continued her work as a writer before transitioning to a studio artist.

Biography ctd.

In 1949 Truitt studied sculpture for one academic year at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Washington, D.C., followed by three months at the Dallas Museum of Fine Art. Following this formal training, she experimented with various media and techniques, including clay, cast cement and plaster, and steel welding.

Writing in April 1965, Truitt stated: "What is important to me is not geometrical shape per se, or color per se, but to make a relationship between shape and color which feels to me like my experience. To make what feels to me like reality."



Overview

Anne Truitt (March 16, 1921 – December 23, 2004), was a major American artist of the mid-20th century.

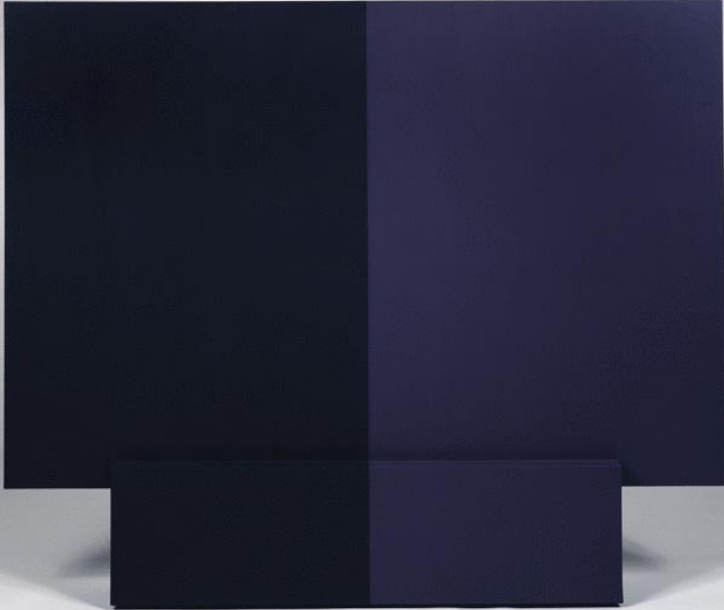


“Truitt works to reveal the interactive motion of our embodied relations, and how material objects can actually help to ground our reality and hence human potentiality.”

Overview ctd.

The sculptures that made her significant to the development of Minimalism were aggressively plain and painted structures, often large. Fabricated from wood and painted with monochromatic layers of acrylic, they often resemble sleek, rectangular columns or pillars.

Art critic Clement Greenberg once wrote of Truitt that "if any one artist started or anticipated Minimal Art, it was she." The credit has clung to her since 1968, when it appeared in an article Greenberg wrote for Vogue magazine. "That's true enough."





Technique

In the early '60s, Truitt developed her mature style—vertical rectangular, wood sculptures coated with layers of saturated color, which blur the line between two and three dimensions. Set on slightly recessed bases, the sculptures appear to hover just above the floor as if defying gravity.



Technique

Truitt produces scale ink drawings of her structures that are then produced by a cabinetmaker. The structures are weighed to the ground and are often hollow, allowing the wood to breathe in changing temperatures. She applies gesso to prime the wood and then up to 40 coats of acrylic paint, alternating brushstrokes between horizontal and vertical directions and sanding between layers. Truitt sought to remove any trace of her brush, sanding down each layer of paint between applications and creating perfectly finished planes of colour. The layers of paint build up a surface with tangible depth.



Works & Whereabouts

Truitt had her first solo exhibition at André Emmerich Gallery in 1963. Today her work is in the collections of many leading museums in the United States, among them the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Her work is also represented in international collections, notably the Panza Collection in Italy.

Bibliography

- <http://www.annetruitt.org/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Truitt
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- <https://nmwa.org/explore/artist-profiles/>

[anne-truitt](#)