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GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

**Isamu Noguchi**

Born:

Los Angeles, California, 1904

Isamu Noguchi's mother was an American and his father, the Japanese poet Yone Noguchi. He spent his childhood in Japan (1906-18) where, in 1917, he worked with a cabinet maker. After his return to the United States, he apprenticed with sculptor Gutzon Borglum in Stamford, Connecticut, from 1919 to 1922. During 1923-25 he studied sculpture at the Leonardo da Vinci School, New York, concurrently attending Columbia University as a premedical student. By 1926, however, he had determined to become an artist. The following year he received a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship and went to Paris, where he became Brancusi's studio assistant. From Brancusi, Noguchi learned respect for craftsmanship and materials. At that time he made his first stone carving. By the end of the decade the artist was working in several materials – stone, wood, sheet metal, and soon added terra cotta.

In 1928 Noguchi returned to New York and the following year the first exhibition of his sheet metal abstractions – compact and sleekly polished pieces – was held. After a brief experience with the Federal Arts Project (WPA) in 1935-36, Noguchi executed a large colored cement mural sculpture in Mexico, titled *History of Mexico*. In 1938 he won the competition to do a bronze relief for the Associated Press Building at Rockefeller Plaza, New York.

In the late 1940s Noguchi received a Bolingen Foundation Fellowship and traveled throughout Europe, Asia, and Japan. In addition to sculpture, he has designed and executed many gardens and playgrounds in the United States and abroad. Among Noguchi's large-scale outdoor sculptures are pieces in Seattle and Cleveland. He has also executed furniture and interior designs and has been involved with theater and ballet, creating abstract stage designs for Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, and George Ballanchine. Noguchi maintained a studio in Long Island City, but since the late 1960s he spent a part of each year working in Japan and Italy as well as New York. Among his exhibitions are those organized by the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery (1931); Kamakura Modern Museum (1952); the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1967); the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1968); and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1978). In 1985 the Noguchi Museum opened in Long Island City, New York. Noguchi passed away December 30, 1988.

Selected One Person Exhibitions:

- 1931 Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York  
John Becker Gallery (Exhibition also in 1932)
- 1942 San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco
- 1953 Stable Gallery, New York (Exhibitions also in 1955, 1959)
- 1963 Cordier & Ekstrom, Inc., New York (Exhibitions also in 1965, 1967, 1970)
- 1968 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1975 Pace Gallery, New York  
Museum of Modern Art, New York



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- 1975 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
- 1980 Pace Gallery, New York  
Andre Emmerich Gallery, New York
- 1982 Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles
- Pace Gallery, New York
- 1984 Sogetsu Kaikan, Tokyo
- 1986 Pace Gallery, New York
- 1988 Pace Gallery, New York  
Arnold Herstand Gallery, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 1931 "Bronzes and Drawings by Isamu Noguchi and Bronzes by Chana Orloff," Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 1933 Exhibition of the work of Artist Fellows of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation
- 1936 "Fantastic Art, Dada, Surrealism," The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1938 "Trois Siecles d'Art aux Etats-Unis," Musee du Jeu de Paume, Paris
- 1939 "Art in Our Time," The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1942 "Twentieth-Century Portraits," The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1946 "Fourteen Americans," The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1951 "Abstract Painting and Sculpture in America," The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1955 "50 Ans d'Art Etats-Unis," Collection Museum of Modern Art, Paris
- 1958 "Nature and Abstraction," Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1965 Rodin Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1967 "American Sculpture of the Sixties," Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles  
"Sculpture: A Generation of Innovation," Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
- 1980 "The Sculpture of Spaces," Whitney Museum of American Art, Minneapolis, MN
- 1986 American Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Selected Public Collections:

- Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York
- Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
- Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles
- Metropolitan Museum of Art, Los Angeles
- The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- Tate Gallery, London
- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
- Whitney Museum of American Art, New York