

ArtPEOPLE

Essie G. Edmiston, an art dealer who represented many 20th-century African-American artists through her Harlem gallery, died in February at the age of 61. She showed Romare Bearden, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Norman Lewis, William Ossawa Tanner, Charles Alston, Allen Stringfellow, among others.

Friedensreich Hundertwasser, 71, an Austrian painter and architect famous for his undulating forms and color wizardry as well as for his visceral loathing of symmetry and the straight line, died on board the Queen Elizabeth 2, after he had boarded the ship in Auckland, New Zealand. According to his philosophy, his mission was to "improve the world and make it more beautiful." Originally born as Friedrich Stowasser in Vienna, he and his mother, who was Jewish, survived World War II. He began studying at the Vienna Academy of Art but left 3 months later. He was famous for his Hundertwasserhaus, a residential block which opened in Vienna in 1985, famed for its variegated bands of color, odd window shapes and onion-dome cupolas. In recent years, he divided his time between Austria and his farm in New Zealand, which he has donated to New Zealand as a reserve.

Adolph K. Placzek, Avery Librarian Emeritus of Columbia University, died on March 20. A celebration of his life was held on 17 April at the Library.

Louise Matthiasdottir, a resident of New York from 1942 until 1999 and whose style of representative painting was known for its directness and crispness, died in Delhi, New York at the age of 83. She studied under Hans Hofmann and was married to Leland Bell, with whom she shared side-by-side studios and the same gallery.

John Heliker, a painter and teacher who was a fixture of the New York art world for almost 70 years, died in February at the age of 91. He moved from representation to near abstraction and back again. He met Arshile Gorky, studied under Thomas Hart Benton, and became good friends with Merce Cunningham and John Cage.

Lowery Stokes Sims, new director of the Studio Museum in Harlem, has named **Thelma Golden** the new deputy director for exhibitions and programs.

Thomas Crow, chairman of the Yale University art history department for the past four years, has been named director of the Getty Research Institute replacing Salvatore Settis, who resigned last year.

William S. Heckscher, a German-born art historian who fled Hitler's Germany and became a professor at Duke University and the director of its art museum, died at the age of 94.

Alfred Isselbacher, an art dealer who specialized in the 19th- and 20th-century prints, died in February at the age of 73. He opened a gallery in 1965 and retired only in 1996, featuring paintings, drawings and sculpture, yet prints remained his central focus.

Margarete Schuette-Llhozky, 102, Austria's first woman architect and leader in her country's Nazi resistance, died in Vienna. She became famous in Germany for creating the first standardized built-in kitchen, known as the "Frankfurt kitchen" and designing apartments for the working class.

Michael E. Shapiro, the deputy director and chief curator, has been named the director of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, replacing **Ned Rifkin**, who has become director of the Menil in Houston.

Gisèle Freund, the German-born photographer who was best known for her portraits of France's literary elite and was a founding member of Magnum Photo Agency, died on 1 April in Paris at the age of 91.

Gil Kane, the self-taught comic book artist who spent more than half a century sketching such memorable characters as the Atom, Green Lantern, the Hulk, Captain Marvel and Spider-Man, died in Miami of cancer at the age of 73.

Duane Michals, photographer, has recently been inducted as an *officier* of the French Order of Arts and Letters in a ceremony with French officials in New York.

Hayward Cirker, the founder and president of Dover Publications, the eclectic paperback publisher of everything from ancient tragedy to "Build Your Own Inexpensive Dollhouse," died in March at the age of 82. He built Dover by delving deep into the public domain

and reprinting thousands of out-of-print novels, illustrations, manuals and scientific texts. He was the first winner of the Wittenborn Prize given by the Art Libraries Society of North America for contributions to art publishing. For visual material, Dover has no competition for price and for quality!

Ferenc Berko, a Hungarian-born photographer who was a pioneer in the use of color film and helped to put Aspen, Colorado prominently on the map, died in March at the age of 84.

Philip Smith MBE was named a Member of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen of England in her New Year Honours List. The citation was "For Services to Art". This is the first time a bookbinder (he calls himself a book-art-maker) has received this honor.

Elsa Longhauser has been named the new Director of the Santa Monica Museum of Art, assuming her position on 15 June 2000. She has been the Director of the Galleries of the Moore College of Art & Design in Philadelphia.

Wayne McAllister, one of the West's greatest unsung architects who designed pioneering playlands on the Las Vegas Strip, circular kitchens and landmark eateries ranging from the Cinegrill supper club in Hollywood to the concrete-crescent Bob's Big Boy in Toluca Lake, California, has died at the age of 92. He changed the face of Las Vegas and Los Angeles. He often said he simply tried to design things to fulfill a need and that his eye-catching futuristic buildings were "influenced by the automobile, not the architect." From cocktail lounges to carhop restaurants, McAllister put his stamp on Los Angeles, while setting the course of Las Vegas by designing the first dude ranch called the El Rancho Hotel, full of rambling bungalows, cowpoke casino and chuck wagon murals. In his later life, he developed the first coin-operated copying machines, and ran a small business selling copiers and tract houses.

Lawrence Weiner, conceptual artist, is designing a new manhole cover to replace 25 existing Con Edison covers in Lower Manhattan. The cast-iron works, to be made in India, will bear the text "In direct line with another & the next," which, according to the artist, refers to the grid of Manhattan streets and the linearity of time. The \$20,000 project, financed by the Public Art Fund, hits the streets in September 2000. (*Art in America*, March 2000)

James G. Davis, 64, Rare Books Librarian in the Department of Special Collections at UCLA from 1983 - 1998, who specialized in acquiring early Italian imprints, historical children's books, Victorian fiction, and Californiana, died in February 2000. In fact, he also collected artist books which he bought with great joy and passion from artists who usually made limited editions. While employed as Rare Books Librarian, he was responsible for many notable rare book exhibitions at UCLA. He was a friend of *Umbrella*, and a personal friend of the editor and publisher, since we shared the same Library School. He loved what he did so very well.

Chuck Close has joined the Whitney Museum of American Art's Board of Trustees, the first artist to sit on the Board and the only current artist trustee of a major New York museum.

Alan Fern, director of the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, is retiring in June from the position he has held since 1982.

Alfred Pacquement, director of Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, is succeeding **Werner Spies** as director of the Pompidou Center's Musée Nationale d'Art Moderne in September.

Lucia Dlugoszewski, a composer and artistic director of the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, died in Manhattan at the age of 68. As a composer and creator of new percussive instruments, she made her mark in her husband's dance company, later taking it over when he died. After studying physics, she moved to New York City to study pian, music analysis and composition. Soon after her arrival in New York, she was taken up by painters and poets in the New York School, among them Robert Motherwell, John Ashbery and Ad Reinhardt. Her first concert in New York in 1957 was sponsored by the artists David Smith and Herman Cherry, while her first reviewer was Frank O'Hara.

James Marston Fitch, an architect whose writings and teaching helped transform historic preservation from a pastime to a vigorous cultural movement, died at the age of 90 in Manhattan. He had a lot to do with the renovation of the Grand Central Terminal. He was an editor at *Architectural Record*, *Architectural Forum* and *House Beautiful* in New York and wrote many books.

Paul Pfeiffer, 34, New York artist, has been named the winner of the first Bucksbaum Award of the Whitney Museum of American Art, receiving a \$100,000 stipend and a residency. This prize will be awarded every two years to an emerging artist living and working in the United States whose work is included in the Whitney's Biennial. Pfeiffer uses photography, sculpture, video, computer photo-collage and digital technology to explore the human body and psyche.

Ferenc Berko, a Hungarian-born photographer who was a pioneer in the use of color film and helped to put Aspen, Colorado prominently on the map, died in March at the age of 84.

Edward Gorey, whose eerie black-and-white cross-hatched drawings of hapless children and Victorian ministers charmed and haunted readers, died on the 15

April at the age of 75. Author of at least 90 books, illustrator of at 60 more, plus designer of sets for stage productions, Gorey is famed for his characters such as Gashly-crumb Tinies, one weebegone child for each letter of the alphabet, from Amy, who fell down the stairs, to Zillah, who drank too much gin.

Rem Koolhaas has been awarded the Pritzker Architecture Prize for 2000, a guiding figure in architecture since 1978. Libraries were also in his vision, including one with a vast public reading room carved out of layers of library stacks for his Très Grand Bibliothèque. The prize is \$100,000.

SHOWS NOT TO MISS

The Guennol Collection: Cabinet of Wonders at the Brooklyn Museum of Art through 7 May.

Sol LeWitt: A Retrospective from 19 February - 30 May 2000 at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, featuring four decades of work by the pioneer conceptual artist, organized by Garry Garrels.

Drawings from the 1930s at Galerie Berinson at Auguststrasse 22 in Berlin from Winter 1999 - Spring 2000.

Nadar/Warhol: Paris/New York, organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum, at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, 6 November 1999 - 30 January 2000 and then to the Baltimore Museum of Art (12 March - 28 May 2000).

Honoré Daumier at the Phillips Collection, Washington, DC through 14 May.

Vik Muniz: "Photographs" & Personal Articles at Ubu Gallery, 16 E. 78th St., New York, NY opening on 29 April and extending through 9 June 2000.

Kurt Schwitters: Ich ist Stil, I is Style, Ik is stijl from 14 April - 6 August 2000 at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

Tom Phillips: The Graphic Works at AdHoc Gallery in Wallsend, England at the Buddle Arts Centre from 5 April - 27 May 2000.

Magritte at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from 5 May - 12 September. A re-examination of the artist featuring 65 works highlighting his investigation of painting as representation and the relationship between language and images. **Robert Gober: Sculpture + Drawing** will also be seen at the museum from 10 June - 5 September.

The Prinzhorn Collection at the Drawing Center, New York City, from 15 April - 10 June, works made by psychiatric patients brought together in the 1920s.

1900: Art at the Crossroads, curated by Robert Rosenblum, at the Guggenheim in New York City, including 250 works by 180 artists including Bouguereau, Burne-Jones, Cezanne, Degas, Eakins, Gauguin, Klimt, Monet, and Munch, as well as artists who were just emerging as revolutionary figures such as Balla, Kandinsky, Matisse, Mondrian and Picasso. This is a