

Herb Alpert Biography - Art

Herb Alpert has spent more than half his life as a respected abstract expressionist painter and sculptor, whose work has been exhibited from the U.S. to Europe. Since he began painting in 1969, Alpert has experimented with a number of different styles and materials, perhaps none more unusual than his current medium of choice: organic coffee, as seen in his inspired, **Coffee Paintings**. Alpert's sculptures, particularly his towering **Black Totems series**, continue to draw interest with their freedom of form and massive size, with some bronze pieces reaching 18 feet in height. The totems were inspired by indigenous sculptural forms from the Pacific Northwest.

Though Alpert's work as an abstract expressionist painter has been inspired by a number of different sources over the years, critics noted the obvious influences of American abstract expressionists, as well as the painters of the School of Paris in the 50's. Yet Alpert cites his single greatest influence as artist **Rufino Tamayo**, whose work first sparked his interest in painting in 1963.

Alpert's paintings and sculptures have been exhibited in museums and galleries in the U.S. and Europe including, the Tennessee State Museum, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Art Cologne, Art Fair Basel, Galerie Frank Haenel, Germany, Galerie Van der Planken, Belgium, MB Modern, New York City, Ace Gallery, Beverly Hills and the Robert Berman Gallery at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica, Ca. His work is also in the permanent collections at the **Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)**, Los Angeles, and the **Tennessee State Museum**, Nashville.

Herb Alpert's philosophy as an artist has generally been to create from a purely internal place; "the feel," as he calls it. "For art to appear," Alpert likes to say, "the artist must disappear." Creativity is Alpert's staff of life. Whether its music, or painting, or sculpture, he launches in headfirst, a soloist, rolling to a rhythm he feels inside, searching for a feeling. "When I paint or sculpt," he says, "I don't have anything in mind. I don't have a goal other than form. I'm looking for that form that touches me and when I find it... I stop." In 2013, Herb Alpert received the **National Medal of Arts Award** presented at the White House by President Barack Obama.

Chronology:

Solo exhibitions

- 2013 Robert Berman Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 2010 Ace Gallery, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2007 Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- 2006 Pasadena Museum of California Art and the
City of Pasadena, Pasadena, CA
- 2005 Bryant Park, New York, NY
- 2002 Contemporary Arts Center of Virginia,
Virginia Beach, VA
- 2001 Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, TN
- 2000 MB Modern, New York, NY
- 1999 Molly Barnes Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1998 Jerry Solomon Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994 Caesara Gallery, Boca Raton, FL
Wenger Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
Wenger Gallery 11, Beverly Hills, CA
Galerie Van der Planken, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1993 Galerie Frank Haenel, Frankfurt, Germany
Galerie Frank Haenel, Berlin, Germany
Galerie Van der Planken, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1990 Wenger Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
group exhibitions
- 1999 Miami International Art Fair, Miami, FL

- 1998 MD Modern, Houston, TX
World Contemporary Art '98, Los Angeles, CA
- 1993 Haenel Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany
Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
Art Cologne, Cologne, Germany
- 1991 Chicago International Art Fair, Chicago, IL
- 1989 Art LA, Los Angeles, CA

Public art

Bergamot Art District, City of Santa Monica,
Santa Monica, CA

Herb Alpert Educational Village, Santa Monica, CA

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

West Hills Community Center, West Hills, CA

California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA

American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA

Dean's Conference Room, UCLA, Broad Art Center
Los Angeles, CA

26th Street & Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

New Roads Educational Village, Santa Monica, CA

Malibu Courthouse, Malibu, CA

Dante' Park, New York, NY
museums: permanent collection

Tennessee State Museum, Nashville, TN

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

Publications

2010 Herb Alpert, Black Totems

2001 Music for Your Eyes

1998 Tango Nuevo

1994 Herb Alpert, Rhythm Paintings

1992 Herb Alpert, Recent Paintings