Anne Truitt Exhibition Celebrates the Career of Leading Minimal Artist at National Gallery of Art, November 19, 2017–April 1, 2018

Washington, DC—The studio life of Anne Truitt (1921–2004) is explored in the focus exhibition In the Tower: Anne Truitt, on view in the East Building, Tower 3, from November 19, 2017, through April 1, 2018. The first major presentation of Truitt’s work at the Gallery, the exhibition celebrates the museum’s acquisition of several major artworks by Truitt in recent years, including seminal works from the collection of the Corcoran Gallery of Art as well as several outstanding loans. Bringing together nine sculptures, two paintings, and 12 works on paper representing the different media in which the artist worked, the exhibition traces Truitt’s artistic development from 1961 to 2002.

One of the most original and important sculptors to emerge in the United States during the 1960s, Truitt is unique in the field of minimal art. Whereas artists such as Donald Judd (1928–1994) and Carl Andre (b. 1935) enlisted industrial fabrication and materials to make their works, Truitt hand-painted her sculptures in multiple layers to create abstract compositions of subtle color in three dimensions. Her art is infused with memory and feeling, unlike much minimalist art, and while most of her peers were based in New York or Los Angeles, she worked alone and independently in Washington, DC. Beginning in 1960 she developed a unique body of work in a series of studio spaces in the Georgetown, Dupont Circle, Adams Morgan, and Cleveland Park neighborhoods, and for a brief period had a studio in Tokyo, where she lived from 1964 to 1967.

“This exhibition celebrates the career of this unique and important artist, who lived and worked in Washington, DC,” said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. “The National Gallery of Art has acquired one of the most significant groups of works by Anne Truitt in a public museum. We are grateful for the generosity of the donors and lenders to this exhibition, as well as for acquisitions from the Corcoran Gallery of Art that have enriched the Gallery’s collection of Truitt’s art.”

Organization and Support

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art.

The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Foundation.

The exhibition is made possible by The Tower Project of the National Gallery of Art.

Exhibition Highlights
Anne Truitt (1921–2004)

Born in 1921 in Baltimore, MD, Truitt grew up in Easton, MD, and was educated at Bryn Mawr College. After living in Boston, Dallas, and San Francisco, she settled in Washington, DC. Truitt’s one-person show at André Emmerich Gallery in 1963 was one of the first exhibitions of minimal-type sculpture; her work was included in “Black, White, and Grey” (1964) and “Primary Structures” (1966), the defining exhibitions of the minimalist tendency. A recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation (1970) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1971 and 1977), Truitt was also a professor at the University of Maryland at College Park (1975–1996) and the acting director of Yaddo (an artists’ working community in Saratoga Springs, NY) in 1984. Major presentations of Truitt’s work have appeared at the Whitney Museum of American Art (1973), the Corcoran Gallery of Art (1974), the Baltimore Museum of Art (1992), the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (2009), and the Dia Art Foundation (2017). Honored with several honorary doctorates, Truitt was awarded the Willa S. Cather Medal by the University of Nebraska in 2003.

Curator and Related Activities


Lecture

Anne Truitt in Washington: A Conversation with James Meyer and Alexandra Truitt

November 19, 12:00

East Building Auditorium

Alexandra Truitt, the artist’s daughter, independent photo editor and picture researcher, and manager of the Estate of Anne Truitt, in conversation with James Meyer, curator of art, 1945–1974, National Gallery of Art.

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General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery’s Web site at www.nga.gov. Follow the Gallery on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt, Twitter at www.twitter.com/ngadc, and Instagram at http://instagram.com/ngadc.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor’s back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

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