



Richard Van Buren

b.1937 Syracuse

Summary

Born in Syracuse, New York in 1937, Richard Van Buren studied painting and sculpture at San Francisco State University and the National University of Mexico. While still a student, Van Buren began exhibiting his work at San Francisco's famed Dilexi Gallery alongside artists as diverse as Franz Kline, H.C. Westermann, Ron Nagle, Ed Moses, and Robert Morris. In 1964, Van Buren relocated to New York. From 1967 to 1988, he taught in the Sculpture Department at the School of Visual Arts. In 1988, he began teaching at the Parsons School of Design. He remained at Parsons until September 2001. He now lives and works in Perry, Maine.

Van Buren has consistently tested material constraints and limitations and in doing so questions the definition and direction of sculpture. He impregnates his signature polyester biomorphs with materials as seemingly disparate as dry pigment, costume jewelry, fiberglass, wallpaper paste, and glitter, in order to present forms which simultaneously reject and depend upon our everyday material-driven culture. Through the creation of his amorphous, uncomfortable and inconsistent forms, Van Buren displays a career-long fascination with the relationship between natural/organic forms and man-made/inorganic materials; especially their ability to mimic and feed into one another.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Van Buren had solo exhibitions at many of the most influential and prestigious galleries, including: Bykert Gallery (1967, 1968, 1969, New York), 112 Greene Street (1972, New York), Paula Cooper Gallery (1972, 1975, 1977, New York), and Texas Gallery (1974, 1976, Houston). During this period, his work also figured prominently in many landmark museum exhibitions, such as *Primary Structures* (1966, The Jewish Museum), *A Romantic Minimalism* (1967, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia), *A Plastic Presence* (1970, Milwaukee Art Center, Wisconsin), and *Works for New Spaces* (1971, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis), among others. In 1977, the City University of New York, Graduate Center mounted a retrospective exhibition of Van Buren's work.

The artist's work is featured in the collections of major museums around the world, including the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Jewish Museum, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Gallery, Washington, DC; the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the Portland Museum of Art, Maine; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.



Education

- 1964 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA (1961-1964)
- 1960 National University of Mexico, Mexico City
Mexico City College

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 *Richard Van Buren: T Timer*, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, September 5–October 12
- 2018 *Richard Van Buren: Material Witness*, South Dakota Art Museum, South Dakota State University, Brookings, January 12–May 20
- 2016 *Richard Van Buren: Monet's Swamp*, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, May 19–June 18
- 2013 *Richard Van Buren: The 1970s*, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, November 26, 2013—January 4, 2014
- 2011 *Richard Van Buren: New Sculpture*, Gary Snyder Gallery, New York, November 10–December 17
- 2010 *Richard Van Buren*, Tides Institute and Museum of Art, Eastport, Maine, September 5–19
- 2003 *Richard Van Buren: Spirit Mold*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, October 25–December 21
- 2002 *Richard Van Buren: New Sculpture*, Mitchell Albus Gallery, New York, June 1–July 12
Richard Van Buren: Spirit Mold, Grand Arts, Kansas City, Missouri, November 15—December 21
- 1991 *Richard Van Buren: New Sculpture*, Jimenez & Albus Gallery, Brooklyn, May 3–26
- 1977 *Richard Van Buren*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, May 14–June 8
- 1976 *Richard Van Buren: Paper—Works*, Texas Gallery, Houston, July 6–August 14
- 1975 *Richard Van Buren*, Graduate Center Mall, City University of New York, January 7–30
Richard Van Buren, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, February 8–March 5



- 1974 *Richard Van Buren: Sculpture*, Texas Gallery, Houston, May 4–27
- 1973 112 Greene Street, New York
- 1972 *Richard Van Buren*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, May 6–June 1
- 1970 *Richard Van Buren*, Bykert Gallery, New York, October 3–28
- 1969 *Richard Van Buren*, Bykert Gallery, New York, November 15–December 6
- 1968 *Richard Van Buren*, Bykert Gallery, New York, March 30–April 25
- 1967 *Richard Van Buren*, Bykert Gallery, New York, April 22–May 13
- 1964 Dilexi Gallery, San Francisco
- 1961 New Mission Gallery, San Francisco

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017 *Three Artists Celebrate the Maine Coast*, Crow Town Gallery, Lubec Maine, June 29–July 16
- 2016 *2016 CMCA Biennial*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, November 4, 2016–January 24, 2017
- 2015 *Invitational Exhibition of Visual Art*, American Academy of Art and Letters, New York, March 12–April 12
You Can't Get There From Here, Portland Museum of Art, Maine, October 8, 2015–January 3, 2016
- 2011 *Inka Essenhigh & Richard Van Buren: Un/natural Splendor*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, August 6–September 25
- 2010 *Pastorale*, 80 Washington Square East Galleries, New York University, September 21–October 16
- 2009 *Soft Sculpture*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, April 24–July 12
- 2006 *High Times, Hard Times: New York Painting, 1967–1975*, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, August 6–October 15, 2006; American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, Washington, D.C., November 21, 2006–January 21, 2007; National Academy Museum, New York, February 13–April 22, 2007



- 1999 *Afterimage: Drawing Through Process*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, April 11–August 22
Drawing in the Present Tense, Arnold and Sheila Aronson Gallery, Parsons School of Design, New York, October 13–December 3, 1999; Julian Akus Gallery, Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, Connecticut, January 7–February 27, 2000
- 1995 *Degrees of Abstraction: From Morris Louis to Robert Mapplethorpe*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, March 11–October 22
- 1989 *Sculpture*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, September 8–October 10
- 1987 *Dance Sculpture*, Art in General, New York, March
- 1984 *Visiting Artists Exhibition II*, Meyerhoff Gallery, Fox Building, Maryland Institute, College of Art, February 28–March 20
- 1977 *Jack Barth, Richard Van Buren, David Deutsch, Richard Jackson, James Reineking*, Bell Gallery, List Art Building, Brown University, Providence, February 5–27
Group Show, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, September 10–October 12
- 1976 *Group Show*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, February 14–March 4
- 1974 *Painting & Sculpture Today, 1974*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, May 22–July 14; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, September 12–October 26
- 1973 *Works from the Early Sixties*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, January 20–February 15
Options 73/30: Recent Works of Art, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, September 25–November 11
- 1972 *10*, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, March 20–June 4
Critics' Choice, Sculpture Center, New York, September 26–October 21
- 1971 *Erasable Structures*, Visual Arts Gallery, School of Visual Arts, New York, January 25–March 2
Works for New Spaces, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, May 18–July 25
Eight Artists: Lynda Benglis, Sam Gilliam, Ralph Goings, Hans Haacke, Duane Hanson, Sol LeWitt, DeWain Valentine, Richard Van Buren, Milwaukee Art Center, June 19–August 8
Kid Stuff?, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, July 25–September 6
- 1970 *Hanging/Leaning, Leaning/Hanging*, Emily Lowe Gallery, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, February 2–27
Highlights of the 1969–1970 Art Season, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, June 21–September 13
Norfolk 70, Yale University Summer School of Music and Art, Norfolk, Connecticut, June 28–July 14



L'art vivant aux États-Unis, Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul, France, July 16–September 30

1970 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Sculpture, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, December 12, 1970–February 7, 1971

1969 *Drawing Exhibition*, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, December

A Plastic Presence, Jewish Museum, New York, November 19, 1969–January 4, 1970; Milwaukee Art Center, January 30–March 8, 1970; San Francisco Museum of Art, April 24–May 24, 1970

Art in Process IV, Finch College Museum of Art, Contemporary Wing, New York, December 11, 1969–January 26, 1970

1968 *Cool Art: 1967*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, January 7–March 17

1968 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Sculpture, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, December 17, 1968–January 9, 1969

1967 *Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture, 1967*, Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana, March 5–April 9

A Romantic Minimalism, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, September 13–October 11

1966 *Primary Structures: Younger American and British Sculptors*, Jewish Museum, New York, April 27–June 12

Opening Exhibition, Bykert Gallery, New York, September 20–October 15

1965 *Sculpture from All Directions*, World House Galleries, New York, November 3–27

Collections

American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York

Art Institute of Chicago

Bennington College, Bennington, Vermont

Jewish Museum, New York

Miami-Dade Art in Public Places

Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Museum of Modern Art, New York

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Perdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

Philadelphia Museum of Art



Portland Museum of Art, Maine
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

Bibliography

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

- Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art. *Cool Art: 1967*. Ridgefield, CT: Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, 1968.
"Highlights of the 1969–1970 Art Season." Ridgefield, CT: Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, 1970.
- Atkinson, Tracy. *A Plastic Presence*. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Art Center, 1969.
- Battcock, Gregory, ed. *Minimal Art: A Critical Anthology*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1968.
- Bell Gallery, List Art Building, Brown University. *Jack Barth, Richard Van Buren, David Deutsch, Richard Jackson, James Reineking*. Providence: Bell Gallery, List Art Building, Brown University, 1977.
- Brentano, Robyn and Mark Savitt, eds. *112 Workshop, 112 Greene Street: History, Artists & Artworks*. New York: New York University Press, 1981.
- Contemporary Art Society. *Painting & Sculpture Today, 1974*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1974.
- Contemporary Arts Center. *Options 73/30: Recent Works of Art*. Cincinnati: Contemporary Arts Center, 1973.
- Contemporary Arts Museum. *10*. Houston: Contemporary Arts Museum, 1972.
- Emily Lowe Gallery, Hofstra University. *Hanging/Leaning, Leaning/Hanging*. Hempstead, NY: Emily Lowe Gallery, Hofstra University, 1970.
- Expo Chicago. *Expo Chicago, 13–17 September 2017*. Chicago: Expo Chicago, 2017.
- Ferris, Alison. *You Can't Get There From Here: 2015 PMA Biennial Catalogue*. Portland, ME: Portland Museum of Art, 2015.
- Fondation Maeght. *L'art vivant aux États-Unis*. Paris: Fondation Maeght, 1970.
- Gary Snyder Gallery. *Richard Van Buren: New Sculpture*. New York: Gary Snyder Gallery, 2011.
- Hunter, Sam. *American Art of the 20th Century*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1972.
- Jewish Museum. *Primary Structures: Younger American and British Sculptors*. New York: Jewish Museum, 1966.
- Kertess, Klaus. *Richard Van Buren*. Kansas City, MO: Grand Arts, 2002.
- Loring, John, David Acton, and Thomas Garver. *Jones Road Print Shop and Stable, 1971–1981: A Catalogue Raisonné*. Madison, WI: Madison Art Center, 1983.
- Massie, Rebecca. *The Sydney and Frances Lewis Contemporary Art Fund Collection*. Richmond: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1980.
- Milwaukee Art Center. *Eight Artists: Lynda Benglis, Sam Gilliam, Ralph Goings, Hans Haacke, Duane Hanson, Sol LeWitt, DeWain Valentine, Richard Van Buren*. Milwaukee: Milwaukee Art Center, 1971.
- Negroponte, George, Roger Shepherd, and Debra Bricker Balken. *Drawing in the Present Tense*. New York: Parsons School of Design, 1999.



- Prokopoff, Stephen S. *A Romantic Minimalism*. Philadelphia: Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, 1967.
- Reed, Robert and Mary Delahoyd. *Norfolk 70*. Norfolk, CT: Art Division of the Yale University Summer School of Music and Art, 1970.
- School of Visual Arts. *School of Visual Arts Fine Arts Faculty*. New York: School of Visual Arts, 1982.
- Sculpture Center. *Critics' Choice*. New York: Sculpture Center, 1972.
- Siegel, Katy. *High Times, Hard Times: New York Painting, 1967–1975*. New York: Independent Curators International, 2006.
- Varian, Elayne H. *Art in Process IV*. New York: Finch College Museum of Art, Contemporary Wing, 1969.
- Walker Art Center. *Works for New Spaces*. Minneapolis: Walker Art Center, 1971.
- Weller, Allen S. *Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture, 1967*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1967.
- Whitney Museum of American Art. *1968 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Sculpture*. New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 1968.
- "1970 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Sculpture." New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 1970.

PERIODICALS

- Bourdon, David. "Fling, Dribble and Drip." *Life* 68, no. 7 (1970) 62–67.
- Childs, Lucinda. "Notes on Batya Zamir." *Artforum* 11, no. 10 (1973): 71–73.
- Domingo, Willis. "In the Galleries: Richard Van Buren." *Arts Magazine* 45, no. 2 (1970): 63.
- Heinemann, Susan. "Richard Van Buren." *Artforum* 13, no. 8 (1975): 60–61.
- Kurtz, Stephen A. "Reviews and Previews: Richard Van Buren." *Art News* 68, no. 4 (1969): 12.
- "Reviews and Previews: Richard Van Buren." *Art News* 68, no. 11 (1970): 12.
- Kutner, Janet. "Texas." *Art Gallery* 14, no. 6 (1971): 12, 73.
- Lippard, Lucy R. "Synthetic Sirens in the Pink Light District." *New York Magazine*, May 6, 1968, 46–47.
- Livingstone, Lisa. "An Interview with Richard Van Buren." *951: An Art Magazine*, November, 1975: 14–15.
- Lubell, Ellen. "Arts Reviews: Richard Van Buren." *Arts Magazine* 52, no. 2 (1977): 23–24.
- Masheck, Joseph. "Sorting Out the Whitney Annual." *Artforum* 9, no. 6 (1971): 70–74.
- Matthias, Rosemary. "In the Galleries: Richard Van Buren." *Arts Magazine* 46, no. 8 (1972): 60.
- Mayer, Rosemary. "Attitudes Toward Materials, Content, and the Personal." *Arts Magazine* 47, no. 7 (1973): 63–66.
- McIntyre, Arthur. "Critical Eye: Richard Van Buren and Batya Zamir." *Craft Australia*, no. 3 (1978): 69.
- Mellow, James R. "New York." *Art International* 11, no. 6 (1967): 51–52.
- Morgan, Robert C. "Richard Van Buren." *World Sculpture News* 18, no. 1 (2012).
- Muller, Gregoire. "Materiality and Painterliness." *Arts Magazine* 46, no.1 (1971): 34–37.
- Ollman, Leah. "The 1960s Dilexi Gallery, Raw and Radical, Gets Brought Back to Life." *Los Angeles Times*, July 30, 2019.
- Pincus-Witton, Robert. "New York: Plastic Presence, Jewish Museum." *Artforum* 8, no. 5 (1970): 69.
- Preece, Robert. "Nothing is Static: A Conversation with Richard Van Buren." *Sculpture* 35, no. 9 (2016): 24–29.
- Ratcliff, Carter. "New York Letter." *Art International* 14, no. 5 (1970): 76–81.
- "Solid Color." *Art News* 71, no. 3 (1972): 26–28, 62A–62B.



- Reisenfeld, Robin. "Richard Van Buren." *Sculpture* 32, no. 1 (2013): 74–75.
- "Richard Van Buren." *Modern Painters* 24, no. 2 (2012): 83.
- Rose, Barbara. "Shall We Have a Renaissance?" *Art in America* 55, no. 2 (1967): 30–39.
- Rose, Herman. "Reviews and Previews: Richard Van Buren." *Art News* 66, no. 4 (1967): 13.
- "Reviews and Previews: Richard Van Buren." *Art News* 67, no. 2 (1968): 10.
- "Reviews and Previews: Richard Van Buren." *Art News* 69, no. 6 (1970): 18, 71–72.
- Stimson, Paul. "Review of Exhibitions: Richard Van Buren at Paula Cooper." *Art in America* 65, no. 6 (1977): 135–136.
- Tuchman, Phyllis. "An Interview with Richard Van Buren." *Artforum* 8, no. 4 (1969): 56–58.
- Wasserman, Emily. "New York: Group Show, Bykert Gallery." *Artforum* 8, no. 1 (1969): 59–61.
- "Richard Van Buren, David Navros, Charles Ross: Three Californians in New York." *Artforum* 6, no. 10 (1968): 34–38.
- Wolmer, Bruce. "Reviews and Previews: Richard Van Buren." *Art News* 69, no. 10 (1971): 17.
- Wooster, Ann-Sargent. "Review of Exhibitions: Richard Van Buren at the C.U.N.Y. Graduate Center and Paula Cooper." *Art in America* 63, no. 5 (1975): 102.
- Yau, John. "Richard Van Buren with John Yau." *Brooklyn Rail* (November 2, 2011): 28–29.

Teaching

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1988 | Associate Professor, Parsons School of Design, New York (1988-2001) |
| 1984 | Visiting Artist, Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore |
| 1970 | Visiting Artist, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut |
| 1966 | Associate Professor, School of Visual Arts, New York (1966-1988) |