

Jack Youngerman's work combines hard-edged geometry with organic forms and fluid contours. Influenced by [Henri Matisse](#) while living in Paris in the 1940s and '50s, Youngerman creates vibrant painted compositions, occasionally within shaped canvases. His works conjure various associations: Matisse's paper cutouts, Rorschach patterns, and kaleidoscopic mandalas. After Youngerman returned to New York in the mid-1950s, his work was grouped with and exhibited alongside his contemporaries [Ellsworth Kelly](#) and [Frank Stella](#).

1926, Born; St. Louis, MO; March 25

In 1929, he moves to Louisville, KY with family

1943-44, studies at University of Missouri, Columbia, from 1944-46, enters U.S. Navy Officers Training Program at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Takes first art course (drawing)

June-December, 1946, receives Navy commission; is stationed at Norfolk, VA and Boston for duty in the Atlantic fleet.

1947, Returns to University of Missouri; receives B.A. degree in Journalism

Fall of 1947, moves to Paris on a G.I. Scholarship; enrolls at Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Studies with Jean Souverbie; emphasis on academic drawing. In Paris, visits fine art museums, cathedrals and historic sites in order to study art history. Travels to the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Greece to look at art.

1948, forms friendship with Ellsworth Kelly and meets Eduardo Paolozzi and Cesar, all fellow students at Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

Marries Delphine Seyrig in 1950

October, 1950, first group exhibition, Les Mains eblouies, at Galerie Maeght, Paris. Other participants include Pierre Alechinsky, Eduardo Chillida, and Comeille

Visits studios of Constantin Brancusi and Jean Arp with Kelly; finds himself influenced by their sense of organic form. Through his father-in-law, Henri Seyrig, he meets Alexander Calder

Meets experimental filmmaker and artist Robert Breer

Becomes interested in the resurgence of geometric abstraction in Paris, especially in such exhibitions as Salon des Realities Nouvelles which included Max Bill, Auguste Herbin, and Richard Lohse. Also visits Salon de Mai to see the most current work of the School of Paris artists, including such masters as Henri Matisse

Influenced by silhouetted forms and expressive shapes in Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's posters, 19th century Japanese woodcuts, Vasily Kandinsky's and Jean Arp's woodcuts, and ink drawings by Matisse.

1951 First one-man exhibition at Galerie Arnaud, Paris. Meets the artist, Francois Morellet, with whom he develops a life-long friendship.

Summer, 1953, visits newly opened caves at Lascaux (Dordogne); impressed by freshness, immediacy and power of their animal imagery.

1954-55, visits Henri Seyrig in Beirut, where he is Director of Institut Francais d'Archeologie. Travels to Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Jordan and throughout the Middle East.

In 1954, he meets Peggy Guggenheim and visits her collection in Venice. He works with architect Michel Ecochard in Beirut on color design for the French Protestant school. At this time, he begins using freely rendered organic forms in his compositions which are strongly informed by positive/negative and figure/ground relationships. These concerns continue to characterize his work today.

His son, Duncan Pierre, is born in 1956. He designs sets for Compagnie Madeleine Renaud-Jean-Louis Barrault production of Georges Schedhade's Histoire de Vasco, presented at Theatre Sarah-Bernhardge and Theatre des Celestins, Paris.

In the summer, the art dealer Betty Parsons visits Youngerman's studio in Paris; encourages him to move to New York City.

In December of 1956, he returns to the United States and settles in New York City. Rents a house near the Battery at Coenties Slip where he lives with his wife and son. Friends and neighbors include Robert Indiana, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Fred Mitchell and Robert Rauschenberg. In 1957, Agnes Martin moves to Coenties Slip.

In 1957, he is impressed by the use of black and treatment of mass in the paintings of Clyfford Still and Robert Motherwell. Establishes a friendship with Frederick Kiesler.

In March, 1958, he makes his American debut with first of seven one-man exhibitions at Betty Parsons Gallery, New York. December, 1958, included in first of four international exhibitions of contemporary painting and sculpture at Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh

In 1959, he is represented in first of four biennial exhibitions of contemporary American painting at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Designs stage sets for Theatre East, New York, production of Jean Genet's Deathwatch. Receives New York Talent Award from Art in America magazine

1959-60, Youngerman is featured in The Museum of Modern Art landmark exhibition, Sixteen Americans, curated by Dorothy Miller. Later that year, he relocates from Coenties Slip to South Street, also in lower Manhattan.

1961, included in Abstract Expressionists and Imagists at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

1962-66, one person exhibits at Galerie Lawrence, Paris, Galleria dell'Arte, Milan and Everett Ellin Gallery, Los Angeles  
Represented in American Drawings at Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

1965, one person exhibit at Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts

1968, one person exhibit at The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC

1969, establishes summer studio in Bridgehampton, New York, where he continues to work today

1970, creates first circular and elliptical shaped paintings as well as freestanding sculpture in laminated fiberglass and resin

1971, first of four one person exhibits at Pace Gallery, New York

1972, inaugural exhibit, Jack Youngerman, 1967-72, at Portland Center for the Visual Arts, Portland, Oregon

Receives National Endowment for the Arts award

Explores new mediums including wood and polystyrene, which permits the development of painted reliefs

May, 1973, one person exhibit at Galerie Denise Rene, Paris

1974-75, visiting artist, Yale University, New Haven; Artist in residence, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

1976, one person exhibit at The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York

Commission to create tapestry for the Federal Office Building, Portland, Oregon; General Services Administration

Awarded fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation

In 1977, he begins to produce cast fiberglass sculpture with assistance from the moldmaker and caster, Christopher Janney

Receives commission for The Ohio, Three Rivers Festival, Pittsburgh

1978, Youngerman is invited by Sidney Feldman, President of Tygart Steel. Pittsburgh, PA, to create freestanding steel and aluminum sculpture and open-form metal screens

1980, begins oil, epoxy, polystyrene and fiberglass relief paintings Instructor, Painting and Sculpture, School of Visual Arts, New York

May, 1981, first of many one person exhibitions at Washburn Gallery, Inc., which continues to represent him today

Visiting professor, Painting and Sculpture, Hunter College, New York

1982, one person exhibition of relief paintings and sculpture at Art Gallery, Fine Arts Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook

Exhibits painted steel sculptures, Sculpture Grove, in Central Park; Public Art Fund, Inc., and New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

In 1983, he begins producing cast fiberglass sculpture in black with Janney. Receives commission from Neimann-Marcus, Chicago, for large-scale sculpture in laminated wood, Dryad.

1984, receives National Endowment for the Arts Award

The Ohio, 1977, fiberglass and resin, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA In 1985, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum mounts a retrospective exhibition that includes over forty years of work by the artist, organized by Diane Waldman

1988-89, one person exhibition at Heland Wetterling Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden

In the early to mid 1990s, creates series of laminated wood sculptures derived from archetypal forms

1992, award recipient, National Academy of Design, New York, NY

1995, Residency, American Academy in Rome, Italy

1996, one person exhibition of small works on paper at Glenn Horowitz Booksellers, East Hampton, NY

2000, one person exhibition at Guild Hall, Jack Youngerman, Recent Sculpture and Drawings

Marries Hilary Helfant. His second son, Milo Youngerman, is born in 1999.

From 2000 to 2005, focus turns to complex wood reliefs based on signature forms

2004, receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY

In 2005, his second one person exhibit at the Parrish Art Museum titled *Jack Youngerman, Folding Screen Paintings* opens in Southampton, NY; first exhibit at The Drawing Room in East Hampton opens concurrently.

2006, awarded Fellowship from the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation

Mid-2000s, creates series of large scale shaped paintings on wood. The works, referred to as Triads and Quadrads, are exhibited at Washburn Gallery in New York in 2009.

In 2011, Margo Leavin Gallery in Los Angeles exhibited a broad selection of works on paper in *Jack Youngerman, 150 Small Works on Paper* Of the exhibit, the critic David Pagel said in the L.A. Times said, "Youngerman's handmade abstractions are all about physicality. They invite you to see and savor every micro-millimeter of acrylic, every ghostly trace of graphite, every matte expanse of gouache, every rough edge and smooth contour."

In 2013, Youngerman exhibited large scale paintings at Washburn Gallery in *Triads Tondos Foils*

In the same year, he mounted an installation of seven fiberglass sculptures at LongHouse Reserve in East Hampton. The exhibit, which was on view through spring and summer until October 2013, featured an important body of work from the 1970s and 1980s.

In May of 2013, Youngerman was the subject of a survey at The Drawing Room in East Hampton, NY that featured over six decades of small paintings and drawings. The exhibit, *Jack Youngerman, Works on Paper, 1951 - 2012* was widely applauded.

The Pollock-Krasner Foundation bestowed Youngerman with the prestigious Lee Krasner Award in 2014.

In 2017, The Menil Collection in Houston presented *Between Land and Sea: Artists of the Coenties Slip*, curated by Michelle White. The exhibition, on view from April 14 - August 6, featured works by Chryssa, Robert Indiana, Ellsworth Kelly, Agnes Martin, Lenore Tawney and Jack Youngerman.

Youngerman's 2019 exhibition at Washburn Gallery, titled *Cut-Ups*, is widely acclaimed.

Jack Youngerman dies in Stonybrook, NY, February 19, 2020.

In 2020, the Washburn Gallery does a tribute show of posters.

In 2023, the Herve Bize Gallery is representing Jack Youngerman's paintings and drawings from the 1950's and 60's at the Independent Twentieth Century Art Fair in lower Manhattan, from September 7 to 10.