
MIKE BERG

Mike Berg, born in Portland, Oregon, USA 19 May, 1948.

"Berg is a kind of aesthetic anarchist, disrupting the natural processes of decay and organizing his interventions into exquisitely layered abstractions"

Linda Yablonsky

Mike Berg's art has throughout his long career defied categorization. From his university years, where he studied political science, to his move to and life in New York, Berg has followed a decidedly personal approach to creating his art.

After graduating from the University of Washington in 1971, Berg enrolled in Fort Wright College. One semester later he had received a BFA degree in 1972. During the summer of 1972 he attended the prestigious Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture from which he was awarded the painting scholarship to attend the New York Studio School which brought him to live in New York.

True to his unconventional nature, Berg felt constrained by the school environment and after only 3 weeks gave up the scholarship but continued to live in the city. Berg was one of the first generation of artists that moved into lofts in Lower Manhattan to work and live, years before loft living was made legal.

As an autodidact, Berg studied art by life in the city, spending his time in museums and art galleries. Following his own path his work evolved dramatically over time.

With the exception of living in Los Angeles for 2 years and one semester as a visiting art at Louisiana State University, Berg lived in New York City until moving to Istanbul at the turn of the century.

During his years in New York Berg had many solo exhibitions. His work got a lot of attention while he showed at the 56 Bleecker Gallery, a famous venue frequented by the Rene Ricard and Warhol Factory crowd. After his second show there Berg began to show with Earl McGrath in Los Angeles and subsequently moved there for 2 years.

During his career Berg has had 35 solo exhibitions in galleries and museums in New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Seattle, Rome and up to now 5 exhibitions at Galeri Nev in Istanbul.