



**Roy Lichtenstein**  
(American, 1923 - 1997)

## Biography

Roy Lichtenstein is an American painter, sculptor, printmaker and decorative artist. His paintings based on the motifs and procedures of comic strips and advertisements made him one of the central figures of American Pop Art.

Drawing on the biomorphic abstraction and heroic themes of Abstract Expressionism, Lichtenstein painted such subjects as anthropomorphic plants, beautiful women in gardens, and wild animals, as well as romantic medieval subjects of knights and battles. All this was painted with a subtle tongue-in-cheek irony, and stylistically oriented towards such European modernists as Picasso, Klee, Kandinsky and Miró.

In 1961 Lichtenstein made the final break with his early work. Whereas he had previously translated his source materials into personal variants of Cubism or Constructivism, he now appropriated from comic strips not only the subject-matter but also the style. In these Pop paintings he favoured highly simplified colour schemes and procedures that mimicked commercial printing techniques, representing tonal variations with patterns of coloured circles that imitated the half-tone screens of Ben Day dots used in newspaper printing, and surrounding these with black outlines similar to those used to conceal imperfections in cheap newsprint. He applied these techniques to paintings based on small advertisements, as in *Spray*; war comics, for example *Whaam!* or *As I Opened Fire*; and comic strips on themes of love and romance, such as *Hopeless* or *We Rose up Slowly*.

By enlarging his source material, Lichtenstein emphasized the banality and emptiness of his motifs as an equivalent to the impersonal, mechanized style of drawing. This led to speculation as to his intended criticism of modern industrial America. The formalization and irony could be taken to support such a theory, but Lichtenstein ultimately would appear to accept the environment as revealed by his reference material as part of American capitalist industrial culture.

In 1962 Lichtenstein made his first Pop prints, such as *Foot and Hand*, in which the association with comic books was strengthened by his choice of a technique generally used for commercial printing: offset lithography. In 1964 he made the first of his screen prints, *Sandwich* and *Soda*, exploiting the inherent impersonality of the medium still further in works printed on synthetic materials, as in *Seascape*. The subtlety and technical inventiveness of his work as a printmaker, combined with his exquisite draughtsmanship, contributed greatly to his growing reputation.

Lichtenstein also periodically produced groups of sculptures. Some of the earliest of these were wood sculptures from pieces of furniture in the early 1950s; later followed glazed ceramics, including female busts such as Blonde and a 1965 series, Ceramic Sculptures, which consisted of stacked cups and saucer. These were followed by the Modern Sculpture series of 1967–8 which made reference to motifs from Art Deco architecture. In his painted bronzes of the mid-1970s Lichtenstein made punning use of linear devices from his paintings to produce three-dimensional but flat-looking representations of familiar objects.

#### Selected Collections

Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, USA  
University of Arizona Museum of Art (UAMA), Tucson, USA  
The Broad museum, Los Angeles, USA  
The Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (MOCA), Los Angeles, USA  
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco, USA  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, USA  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, USA  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, USA  
National Portrait Gallery, Washington, USA  
Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, USA  
University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, USA  
Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, Hawaii  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (MCA Chicago), Chicago, USA  
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, USA  
The Art Museum at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, USA  
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, USA  
Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, USA  
Harvard Art Museum/Fogg Museum, Cambridge, USA  
Detroit Institute of Art, Detroit, USA  
Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, USA  
Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA  
University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, USA  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA  
The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York, USA  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA  
The Museum of Fine Arts, (MFAH), Houston, USA  
Museo de Arte de Ponce, Ponce, Puerto Rico

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, Canada  
Albertina, Vienna, Austria  
Museum moderner kunst stiftung ludwig wien (mumok), Vienna, Austria  
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland  
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain (MAMAC), Nice, France  
BMW Museum, Munich, Germany  
Kunsthalle Weishaupt, Ulm, Germany  
Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany  
Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt, Germany  
Museum Würth, Kuenzelsau, Germany  
Stiftung Sammlung Marx. Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin, Berlin, Germany  
Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany  
Basil and Elise Goulandris Foundation, Andros, Greece  
Ludwig Múzeum, Budapest, Hungary  
Casa Cavazzini, Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Udine, Italy  
Gori Collection, Pistoia, Italy  
Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein, Vaduz, Liechtenstein  
Museum Boymans-van-Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal  
Ludwig Museum in the Russian Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia  
Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain  
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain  
Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Barcelona, Spain  
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden  
Göteborg Museum of Art, Göteborg, Sweden  
Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland  
Kunstmuseum Basel / Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basel, Switzerland  
Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland  
Tate Modern, London, UK  
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
WAVE / Museums, Galleries and Archives of Wolverhampton, UK  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia  
National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China  
Center for Contemporary Graphic Art, Fukushima, Japan  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan  
Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan  
Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel  
Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, Itaewon, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea



### Selected Exhibitions

2023

Artist Room: Reflections, prints from the Lichtenstein Foundation's Loans, Tate Modern, London, UK

2022 - 2021

*Roy Lichtenstein: History in the Making 1948-1960*, Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, Durham, UK; Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill; Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, USA

2020

*Multiple Variations*, Musée des Beaux-Arts Mons (BAM), Belgium

2019

*Roy Lichtenstein: The Loaded Brush*, Paintings, Sculptures, Collages & Drawings from the 1980s, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria  
Artist Rooms: Roy Lichtenstein, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University, UK  
*Order and Ornament: Roy Lichtenstein's Entablatures*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA

Artist Rooms: Roy Lichtenstein, Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool, UK  
*Roy Lichtenstein. Multiple Visions*, Museo delle Culture, Milan, Italy

2017

*Remembering Bilderstreit: Georg Baselitz and Roy Lichtenstein*, Gagosian Gallery, at Frieze Masters, London, UK

Artist Rooms: Roy Lichtenstein in Focus, Tate Liverpool, UK

2016

Artist Rooms: Roy Lichtenstein, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK

2015

*Roy Lichtenstein: Between Sea and Sky*, Easthampton Guild Hall, USA

2014

Walls: Jasper Johns and Roy Lichtenstein, Castelli Gallery, New York, USA

*Roy Lichtenstein: Nudes and Interiors*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, USA

2013

Roy Lichtenstein, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Roy Lichtenstein, Fondazione Vedova, Venice, Italy

Roy Lichtenstein, Tate Modern London, UK

2012

*Lichtenstein: A Retrospective*, The National Gallery, Washington, USA

*The Small Utopia: Ars Multiplicata*, Fondazione Prada, Venice, Italy

*Lichtenstein, Klee and Lowry*, Tate Galleries, London, UK

*Lichtenstein: A Retrospective*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA



2011

- Roy Lichtenstein: Chinese Landscapes*, Gagosian Gallery, Hong Kong, China  
*Reflected in the Mirror there was a Shadow, Roy Lichtenstein – Andy Warhol*, Castelli Gallery, New York, USA  
*Three Landscapes: A Film Installation* by Roy Lichtenstein, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Black & White*, The Albertina, Vienna, Austria  
*Roy Lichtenstein: In Process*, Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Malibu, USA

2010

- Roy Lichtenstein: The Black-and-White Drawings*, Morgan Library & Museum, New York, USA  
*Mit Kopf und Hand: Variationen zur Zeichnung*, Akademie-Galerie, die Neue Sammlung, Düsseldorf, Germany  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Kunst als Motiv*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Meditations on Art*, Museo Triennale, Milan, Italy

2009

- Lichtenstein: in Process*, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis; Katonah Art Museum, Katonah, USA

2007

- Roy Lichtenstein: Monumental Sculptures*, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Coral Gables, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein*, Évolution Pinacotèque de Paris, France  
*Roy Lichtenstein: American Indian Encounters*, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, Indianapolis, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein: De principio a fin*, Fundacion Juan March, Madrid, Spain

2006

- Roy Lichtenstein: American Indian Encounters*, Santa Fe Museum of Fine Arts, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Vida animada/Animated Life*, Museu de Arte Moderna Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
*Lichtenstein: En proceso*, Es Baluard, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

2005

- Roy Lichtenstein: Brushstrokes*, Portland Art Museum, Portland, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein: American Indian Encounters*, Montclair Art Museum, USA  
*Lichtenstein: En proceso*, Museo de Arte Abstracto Español Cuenca, Spain  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Vida animada*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Sculpture*, Gagosian Gallery Chelsea, New York, USA

2004

- Roy Lichtenstein*, Hayward Gallery South Bank Centre, London, UK  
*Roy Lichtenstein*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain

2003

- Still Life with Sculpture: Lichtenstein and Matisse*, Mitchell-Innes and Nash, Madison Avenue, New York, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein on the Roof*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York USA  
*All About Art*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Times Square Mural*, Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, USA

2001

- Roy Lichtenstein Published* by Leo Castelli, Castelli Gallery, New York, USA  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Brushstrokes, Four Decades*, Mitchell-Innes and Nash Madison Avenue, New York, USA

2000

- Roy Lichtenstein: Imagens Reconhecíveis*, Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon, Portugal

1999

- Roy Lichtenstein: Riflessi/Reflections*, Chiostro Del Bramante, Rome, Italy  
*Roy Lichtenstein: Interiors*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, USA

1998

- Roy Lichtenstein: Imágenes reconocibles: Escultura, pintura y gráfica*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, Mexico

1994

- A Retrospective*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA

1988

- The Drawings of Roy Lichtenstein*, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany; Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, UK; *The Drawings of Roy Lichtenstein*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

1983

- Roy Lichtenstein 1970–1980*, Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain

1981

- Roy Lichtenstein 1970–1980*, Orsanmichele, Florence, Italy

1975

- Pop Art: Roy Lichtenstein*, Neue Galerie der Stadt Aachen, Germany

#### Selected Literature

- Karen Bandlow: *Roy Lichtenstein und Ostasien*, Imhof (2007)  
M.L. Corlett en R.E. Fine: *The Prints of Roy Lichtenstein* Hudson Hills Press (2002)  
D. Cameron, et al.: *Pop Art*. Prestel (1992)  
Janis Hendrickson: *Roy Lichtenstein. Die Ironie des Banalen* Taschen, (1988)