Biography

Richard Carlyon (1930–2006) studied painting and dance at Richmond Professional Institute (now Virginia Commonwealth University), earning a BFA in Fine Arts in 1953. After being drafted into the Army and later moving to New York City, he returned to RPI for an MFA and in 1963 became a full-time member of the faculty. Following his promotion to Assistant Professor in 1966, until his appointment as Professor Emeritus in 1996, Carlyon taught in the Departments of Painting and Printmaking, Communication Arts and Design, and Art History. He also taught at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and lectured extensively throughout the state. He received the Distinguished Teaching of Art Award from the College Art Association in 1993 and the Presidential Medallion, one of VCU’s highest honors, in 2005.

Carlyon received three professional fellowships from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in the disciplines of painting (1960), drawing (2002), and video (1996). He also received a fellowship from the Virginia Commission for the Arts in 2000 to prepare a series of drawings based on the movement patterns of choreographer Martha Graham’s dances. University support in the form of grants for studio research funded such projects as: Achromatic Abstract Painting; The Theoretical Principles of Resonance in Art, Communication and Media; and Word-Based Imagery Attained through Chance, Randomness, Automatism and Improvisation. He was twice nominated for an Award in the Visual Arts (AVA), coordinated by the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (SECCA) in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

From the mid-1950s until 2005, Carlyon participated in nearly 100 group exhibitions that include The Image of the Word, Gallery Iolani, Kaneohe, Hawaii (1998); Three Abstract Painters: Richard Carlyon, Ray Kass, Paula Owens, Flossie Martin Gallery, Radford University, Radford, Virginia (1990); Southern Abstraction, City Gallery of Contemporary Art, Raleigh, North Carolina (1987); Exchange Exhibition, Gallery 10, Washington, DC (1983); Purism, Siegel Contemporary Art, Inc., New York, New York (1982); ‘40–’80 Exhibition, Institute of Contemporary Art, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (1980); President’s Inaugural Exhibition, Modlin Fine Arts Center, University of Richmond (1971); Richmond Painters and Printmakers, Gallery of Contemporary Art, Winston-Salem, North Carolina (1970); Opening Group Show,


In addition to numerous private and corporate collections, Carlyon’s work is included in the permanent collections of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; the Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, Virginia; and the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, Farmville, Virginia.
Articles and Reviews

"Artworld: CAA Awards 1993."  

Ashton, Dore. "Art: Mutual Assistance."  

Ashton, Dore. "Richard Carlyon."  

"Awards for Excellence: Distinguished Teaching of Art Award Presented to Richard Carlyon."  

Bullard, CeCe. "Paintings Reveal Passion."  

Cossitt, F. D. "Carlyon Exhibit is Enchanting One."  

East, 4 April 1957.

Farago, Claire. "1708 E. Main's 'Five Years' Exhibition."  

Flinn, Mary. "An Interview with Richard Carlyon."  

Gibson, Wesley. "Richard Carlyon."  

Glasser, Susan. "Richard Carlyon's 'here.Say.'"  

Hale, Herbert D. "Richard Carlyon."  


Humes, Pete. "Richard Carlyon, Longtime VCU Art Professor, Dies."  

Kollatz, Harry. "Theresa Pollak Prizes for Excellence in the Arts. Lifetime Achievement Award: Richard Carlyon."  

Mellow, James. "Richard Carlyon."  
Arts Magazine, April 1957.

Proctor, Roy. "Dissolve to 'Retirement.'"  
Richmond Times-Dispatch, 10 February 2002, pp. G1, 8.

Ramirez, Jenny. "Linguistic Mayhem."  

Risatti, Howard. "Five Years."  

Robbins, Tom. "Bird Park Lake."  
Richmond Times-Dispatch, 23 March 1966, p. 38.

Roberts-Pullen, Paulette. "Looking Back: Dancing with Richard Carlyon."  

Ryans, Paul. "Mid-Atlantic Reviews: Richard Carlyon."  
Art Papers, July/August 2002, pp. 40-41.


Slipek, Edwin. "Remembrance: Richard Carlyon."  
Style Weekly, 1 February 2006.
With Eleanor Rufty in the studio, October 2005.


**Catalogues**


Unfinished paintings in the studio, late Winter 2006.

Colophon
Project Director and Editor: Ashley Kistler
Graphic Design: John Malinoski
Plate Photography: Travis Fullerton
Prepress: Jerry Bates, VCU Graphics Lab
Type Family: Univers
Papers: Cougar Smooth and Neenah Environment

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