

MIT List Visual Arts Center

Kenneth Noland

MEDIUM Painting

NATIONALITY American

LIFE DATES Asheville, North Carolina 1924 - 2010 Port Clyde, Maine

Born in Asheville, North Carolina in 1924, painter and colorist Kenneth Noland attended Black Mountain College, N.C., after a stint with the U.S. Air Force. There he learned Bauhaus theories, studying under Ilya Bolotowsky, Josef Albers, and Ossip Zadkine and developed an interest in Paul Klee. He continued to study sculpture under Zadkine in Paris in the late 1940s and had his first one-man show.

Noland returned to the States in 1949 and settled in Washington, D.C., where he taught at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, Catholic University, and Washington Workshop Center of the Arts. He resumed his attendance of summer courses at Black Mountain College, where he met Helen Frankenthaler, Clement Greenberg, and David Smith. In the early 1950s, after exposure to Frankenthaler's stained canvases, Noland and close friend Morris Louis began experiments with non-gestural, color-intensive painting as an alternative to Abstract Expressionism, within the genre of Color Field painting, as it would later be known. Noland developed a style of pictorial flatness that emphasized the canvas itself and the use of uniform color values.

By the middle of the decade, Noland had begun structuring and focusing his compositions, and a centrally placed circle became a consistent theme and subject of his work. Noland worked with a number of motifs in series, such as chevrons, ellipses, diamonds, and flares. He continued to experiment through the 1970s and into the 1980s with horizontal bars of color, gridded forms, and irregularly shaped canvases.

Noland has participated extensively in solo and group exhibitions. His works are included in many public collections including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Art Institute of Chicago; Baltimore Museum of Art; Cleveland Museum of Art; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; Kunsthau, Zurich; Kunstmuseum, Basel; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate Gallery, London; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

In 1977, Noland was elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. He was



Artist in Residence in Computer Video Arts at Pratt Institute, New York, in 1986-87 and served as Milton Avery Professor of the Arts at Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York. He received the North Carolina Award in Fine Arts and an honorary doctorate of fine arts from Davidson College, North Carolina.

He died at his home in Port Clyde, Maine, on January 3, 2010.

