

## 'Develop Your Eye, and Then Buy with Your Heart'

NEW YORK—André Emmerich, the eminent art dealer known for his representation of color-field artists, died in New York at the age of 82.

Born in Frankfurt in 1924, Emmerich moved with his family to the Netherlands in 1931. In 1940 they settled in Queens, New York, after fleeing the Nazis. Emmerich attended Oberlin College in Ohio, where he studied art history and worked at the school's Allen Memorial Art Museum. He graduated at the age of 19.



André Emmerich.

He then moved to Paris, where his grandfather had been an art dealer, and spent nearly a decade there, writing for Time-Life International, the *New York Herald Tribune*, and *Realités*. After returning to New York in 1953, he opened André Emmerich Gallery on East 64th Street, later relocating to the Fuller Building on East 57th Street. One of the first artists he showed was Adolph Gottlieb, a friend with whom he regularly sailed in Sheepshead Bay.

Emmerich maintained a close relationship with the critic Clement Greenberg, who championed many of the artists the dealer exhibited, including Morris Louis, Kenneth Noland, and

Jules Olitski. At a time when women met with prejudice in the art world—as he recalled in a 2002 interview with Avis Berman for the Archives of American Art—Emmerich made it a priority to show their work and represented Helen Frankenthaler, Judy Pfaff, and Miriam Schapiro, among others.

The dealer also collected and mounted exhibitions of pre-Columbian art and published two books on the subject. In time he added painters like David Hockney and Al Held to his roster of artists and took on the management of the estates of Hans Hofmann, Milton Avery, and John Graham.

In 1971 Emmerich opened a Zurich branch of his gallery, and the following year he became president of the Art Dealers Association of America, a post he held until 1974, and again from 1991 to 1994. In 1996 Emmerich sold his gallery to Sotheby's but retained the title of director. That relationship lasted only two years; the auction house closed the gallery in 1998.

In 1982 Emmerich purchased the 140-acre Top Gallant Farm in Pawling, New York, and transformed it into a private sculpture park, where he showed large-scale works by Alexander Calder, Anthony Caro, Beverly Pepper, and Mark di Suvero.

For the past several years, Emmerich had been composing his memoirs, which were published in September by Ruder Finn Press and are titled *My Life with Art*. Excerpts from the book appeared in the *New Criterion* and *ARTnews*. "The best advice I can give a collector is: develop your eye, and then buy with your heart—always, always with the heart," he wrote in 2003.

—Rachel Somerstein

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