

**RUTH ASAWA**

**Born**

1924 Norwalk, California

**Interment**

1944 Rohwer Relocation Center, Rohwer, Arkansas

**Education**

1943 High School Diploma

1944-6 Milwaukee State Teachers College

1944-45 Su Universidad de Mexico

1946 Black Mountain College, North Carolina. Studies with Josef Albers, Ilya Bolotowsky, Merce Cunningham and Buckminster Fuller.

1947 Toluca, Mexico as volunteer art teacher. Sees local craftspeople making wire baskets, this inspires her future work in looped wire.

1951 Takes courses in silk-screening, life drawing and painting at San Francisco State College.

1952 Takes courses in lettering and commercial design at San Francisco State College.

1957 Studies Kobo Daishi calligraphy with Zen Master Hodo Tobase.

1966 Masters the technique of face casting from George Neal at George Washington High School in San Francisco, CA.

**Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2009 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2007-8 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2007 De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA

2005 Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2003 Tobey C. Moss Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1987 San Francisco City College Art Gallery

1979 Santa Cruz County Building, Santa Cruz, CA

1979 Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA, Cedar Street Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA

1978 The Fresno Art Center, Fresno, CA

1973 The Van Doren Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1973 The Baxter Gallery, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA

1965 Pasadena Museum of Art, Pasadena CA

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2011 Elements: The Beauty of Chemisty, Science Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.  
Traveling to Bergamo Scienza, Bergamo, Italy
- 2003 Vital Forms, American Art in the Atomic Age, 1940-1960, Brooklyn Museum of Art.  
Brooklyn, New York
- 2002 Ruth Asawa: Completing the Circle, Oakland Museum of California. Oakland , CA.
- 2002 Parallels and Intersections: Art/ Women/ California, 1950-2000, San Jose Museum of Art.  
San Jose, CA.
- 2001 Ruth Asawa: Completing the Circle, the Fresno Art Museum. Fresno, CA
- 2001 Leading the Way: Visionary Asia American Woman Artists of the Older Generation,  
Gordon College in Wenham, MA.
- 2000 Made in California: Art, Image and Identity, 1900-2000, Los Angeles County Museum of  
Art
- 2000 Raumkorper Netze und Andree Gebilde, the Kunthsalle in Basel, Switzerland.
- 2000 Made in California: Art, Image and Identity, 1900-2000, Los Angeles County Museum of  
Art
- 1999 Art in Stone: Prints from the Tamarind Lithography Workshop, 1960-1970, Norman  
Simon Museum. Pasadena, CA
- 1997 The Fabric of Life: 150 years of Northern California Fiber Art History San Francisco State  
University Art Department Gallery. San Francisco, CA.
- 1996 Generations--the Lineage of Influence in Bay Area Art, Richmond Art Center. Richmond,  
CA
- 1995 J.J. Bookings Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1995 With New Eyes, the University of Michigan and the San Francisco State University  
Gallery: Detroit, MI and San Francisco, CA
- 1993 Pacific Rim: Japan California Crafts Museum: San Francisco, CA
- 1992 Bay Area Greats, Syntax Gallery: Palo Alto, CA
- 1991 The Search for Self, Lillian Paley Center for the Visual Arts: Oakland, CA
- 1990 Drawing from Experience: Artists over Fifty, the Euphrat Gallery at De Anza College in  
Cupertino, CA.
- 1990 Strength and Diversity: Japanese-American Women 1885-1990, The National Japanese  
American Historical Society and the Oakland Museum of California: Oakland, CA.
- 1988 Passages: a Survey of California Women Artists, Oakland Museum: Oakland, CA
- 1986 Legends in Fiber Octagon Center for the Arts, Ames, IA
- 1986 In the Advent of Change: 1945-6, Fresno Arts Center and Museum: Fresno, CA
- 1984 Japanese-American Women Artists, Fiber and Metal, Evergreen Galleries: Olympia, WA
- 1982 Three Masters: New Works, The Fiberworks Gallery: Berkley, CA
- 1981 Remember: It's Only Artwork from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Civic Arts  
Gallery: Walnut Creek, CA
- 1974 An Exhibition of Artwork by Students of Josef Albers, Carpenter Center for the Visual  
Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge.
- 1973 Ruth Asawa: A Retrospective View, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San  
Francisco, CA
- 1972 American Women: 20th Century, Lakeview Center for the Arts and Sciences, Peoria,  
Illinois
- 1970 Painters and Sculptors of San Francisco: The Expo 70 Presentation of the San Francisco  
Art Commission. San Marco Gallery at Dominican College: San Rafael, California.
- 1969 Recent Drawings: Ruth Asawa, Capper Gallery, San Francisco
- 1969 Los Angeles County Fair, Los Angeles, CA
- 1969 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- 1968 The National Invitational Crafts Exhibition, University of New Mexico Art Museum,  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

*Selected Group Exhibitions (cont.)*

- 1967 Media Explored, International Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
- 1967 Made with Paper, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York, New York
- 1967 San Francisco Art Institute
- 1967 Sculpture 1967, Esther Bear Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA
- 1967 Capper Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1966 The 5th Biennial National Religious Arts Exhibition, Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- 1966 Contemporary Prints from Northern California, IBM Gallery, New York, New York
- 1966 161st Annual Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture, Pennsylvania Academy of The fine Arts.
- 1955 Annual Exhibition: Paintings, Sculpture, Watercolors, Drawings, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.
- 1959 Third Pacific Coast Biennial, Santa Barbara Museum of Art
- 1959 Recent Sculpture USA, Organized by the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York.
- 1959 78th Annual Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, San Francisco Art Association, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. San Francisco, California.
- 1958 Annual Exhibition: Paintings, Sculpture, Watercolors, Drawings, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.
- 1956 20th Annual Drawing and Print Exhibition, San Francisco Art Association, San Francisco, CA
- 1956 75th Annual Paintings Exhibition, San Francisco Art Association
- 1956 An Exhibition of Japanese Household Objects in Cooperation with the Japan Committee on International Design, Design Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1956 University of Illinois Biennial, the American Exhibition, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
- 1955 Annual Exhibition: Paintings, Sculpture, Watercolors, Drawings, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York.
- 1955 Sao Paulo Biennial, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- 1954-58 One person exhibitions at Peridot Gallery, New York, New York.
- 1954 Four Artists, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California.
- 1953 One person exhibition at Design Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 1950 San Francisco Art Association Annual, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- 1949 Addison Gallery, Andover, Massachusetts. Josef Albers, curator.
- 1948 Wire Baskets are exhibited at Black Mountain College, North Carolina

**Awards**

- 2002 Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant to Sculptors and Painters
- 2002 SECA Award, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- 2002 Fleishhacker Eureka Fellowship
- 2001 Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award
- 2001 ArtCouncil Grant to Individual Artists
- 2001 Distinguished Woman of 2001, named by the Fresno Art Museum's Council of 100
- 1998 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from San Francisco State University.
- 1997 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the San Francisco Art Institute
- The Precita Eyes Mural Center Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1996 The Ministry of Nursing Homes Art with Elders Honor Award
- San Francisco State University Creative Arts Department recognizes Asawa as a Distinguished Urban Artist.

*Awards (cont.)*

- 1995 The Asian American Art Foundation, Gold Ring Lifetime Achievement Award.  
The San Francisco Education Fund, Golden Apple Lifetime Achievement Award  
The International Network of Performing and Visual Arts Schools, Artist-mentor in Visual Arts Award.
- 1993 The Woman's Caucus for the Arts Honor Award
- 1989 Arts Award from the Asian Heritage Council  
The Cyril Magnin Award, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce: San Francisco, CA.
- 1983 Honorary Masters Degree, the Academy of Arts College: San Francisco, CA
- 1967 Tamarind Lithography Fellowship
- 1959 Woman's Board of the Oakland Museum's Association Purchase Award.

**Commissions**

- 1987 Old Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa, CA
- 1977 Debartelo Corporation, Mission Viejo, California
- 1971 Civic Plaza, Phoenix, Arizona
- 1970 Hyatt Hotel, San Francisco CA
- 1968 San Francisco Arts Commission, San Francisco CA
- 1966 Ghirardelli Square: San Francisco, CA
- 1965 Fox Plaza: San Francisco, CA
- 1965 J.L Hudson: Detroit, Michigan