

Squeak Carnwath

Squeak Carnwath was born in Abington, Pennsylvania. She attended Goddard College in Vermont and then moved to Oakland, California to attend the California College of Arts and Crafts (currently California College of the Arts, CCA) receiving a Masters of Fine Arts in 1977. At CCAC, Carnwath worked closely with artist Viola Frey who became a friend and mentor. After finishing her degree, Carnwath began to exhibit her work in the San Francisco Bay Area. She also began her teaching career, first at the University of California Davis (1983-1998) and later at the University of California, Berkeley (1998-2010) where she is now Professor Emeritus. Carnwath has lived and maintained a studio in Oakland, CA since 1968.

Carnwath's paintings and prints draw upon the philosophical and mundane ideas, experiences and objects of daily life. Her work can be identified by lush fields of color combined with original and found text, repeated patterns, and identifiable images.

Carnwath exhibits her work in the United States and internationally. Her paintings and prints have been included in numerous group and solo exhibitions including the international exhibition, *The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama*. In 2009, The Oakland Museum of California organized a large survey of Carnwath's work, *Squeak Carnwath: Painting is no Ordinary Object*. Her work is in the collections of numerous institutions including the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY, Berkeley Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, CA, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, di Rosa Collection, Sonoma, CA, MIT List Visual Art Center, Boston, MA, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, Oakland Museum Of California, Oakland, CA, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA, The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, HI, and Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT.

Currently (2011) Carnwath's paintings are shown at the following galleries: John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA, Clark Gallery, Lincoln MA, James Harris Gallery, Seattle, WA, Peter Mendenhall Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Jackson, WY, Gail Severn Gallery, Ketchum, ID, and Turner Carroll Gallery, Santa Fe, NM.

Carnwath has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) Award from San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 1980, Individual Artist Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1980 and 1985, a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1994, and the Award for Visual Artists from the Flintridge Foundation in 2002. Throughout her teaching career, Carnwath received numerous teaching and research awards from the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California Davis.

Additionally Carnwath has held numerous residencies including the Alma B.C. Schapiro Residency for a Woman Painter (1992) at Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, NY and the Rosenkranz Family Fellowship (1992) at the Djerassi Resident Artist Program in Woodside, CA. Carnwath has given artist's talks nationally at various institutions including: Stanford Museum of Art, Stanford University, Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT, Hanes Art Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, the de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA, Microsoft Artist Lecture

Series, Microsoft Campus, Redmond, WA, Site Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, and Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT.

In 2001, the San Francisco Arts Commission choose Carnwath to create a site-specific work, *Fly, Flight, Fugit*, for the San Francisco International Airport. She received a Special Recognition Award for the SFO Art Enrichment project from the Precita Eyes Muralists Association.

Squeak Carnwath: Lists, Observations, & Counting, a survey of Carnwath's work accompanied by critical essays, was published by Chronicle Books in 1996. In conjunction with her 2009 exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California, the museum published *Squeak Carnwath: Painting is no Ordinary Object*, a book containing full color reproductions and essays by Karen Tsujimoto and John Yau.

Along with artist Viola Frey and husband Gary Knecht, Carnwath founded the Artists' Legacy Foundation, an organization dedicated to providing grants to important painters and sculptors and to preserving the work of such artists when deceased. Carnwath has been president of the Artists' Legacy Foundation Board of Directors since 2000.

More information about Squeak Carnwath and images of her work can be found at www.squeakcarnwath.com. *Squeak Carnwath: Imagination is the Mind's Freedom*, a short conversation with the artist, can be found on www.youtube.com.