

## **Nantandy, (Am. 1927-2016)**

Nantandy was a world-renowned artist recognized for more than 50 years whose works can be found in corporate, museum and private collections.

Nantandy was born in Abilene, Texas in 1927, moved to the small ranching town of Ozona, Texas in 1932 where she attended public school and graduated in 1945. From the age of 10, she sat at the lap of several of the West Texas regional artists learning her craft from such notable artist/educators as Helen King Kendall, Margaret Tupper, Xavier Gonzalez, Ruth Tears, Michael Frary and Julius Woeltz. At their encouragement, she became a professional artist in 1948 after winning awards around Texas in watercolors, oils and drawings. After her first solo showing in 1960 at the Ligoa Duncan gallery in New York City, Nan realized that she had to broaden her horizons and follow her dreams, no matter the cost. After her divorce that summer, she moved to California with her daughters and studied nights at the Otis Art Institute with Paul Lauritz, Joe Mugnaini and at the University of Southern California with Frederick Taubes, Keith Crown and Kero Antoyan, receiving her Bachelor's degree in Art Education in 1964. She taught high school and junior college art classes while working on her Master's Degree from Cal State Long Beach which she completed in 1967, with her Master's Thesis Exhibit, a prolific exhibit of oil paintings titled "Paintings Interpreting the Adolescent Years".

By this time, she had invented her style of structural canvasses and was sculpting in various media. She reopened her Tanar Gallery/Art Studio in Laguna Beach, California in 1976, exhibiting both her and her peers pieces while there. In 1978, the State of California's Art in Public Buildings program awarded her a public commission to produce a historical mural for the City of San Bernardino. The mural was 72 feet long, in 12 canvas panels of sprayed acrylic over mylar stencils, and was placed in the EDD Building in San Bernardino, CA.

After her husband/agent Harold Ronson passed in 1980, her primary childhood mentor, muralist Xavier Gonzalez, encouraged her finally to move to New York City in 1981. Once there she joined the National Society of Mural Painters and began painting a series of autobiographical murals (1982-2006) the first of which, "Born in Abilene", was shown at the Keane-Mason Gallery and Studio 54 in 1982.

While living briefly back in Abilene from 1989-1991, Nan's application for studio/living space in Westbeth Artist's Housing in the West Village was approved in 1991. She joyously moved back to New York City, living at Westbeth for the rest of her days. She continued to show through 2008, winning awards in many art expressions. Over the course of her career, she had over 70 solo exhibitions, including retrospectives in California, New York and Texas. She also had 2 pieces included in the permanent collection of the Vay Adam Museum in Vaja, Hungary after spending a summer teaching at an art camp there in 1998.

Nantandy's paintings span 7 primary genres, 1) watercolors (1948-2008) which were her day to day "bread and butter"; 2) mid-century abstracts (1949-1963) while she was learning her craft; 3) the figurative oils produced for her Master's Thesis exhibition (1964-1966); 4) the structural canvas style she invented and perfected (1966-1972); 5) the murals (1978-2006), 6) the abstract expressionist pieces (1991-1993) and 7) her final stage of spiritual exploration pieces (1990-2007).