

willer

F. L. Kenett: The Rediscovered Sculptures



"Fred Kenett, unquestionably the greatest photographer of sculpture in the world, became a sculptor himself...three years ago... As one might expect, there is a fine sense of form and an acute feeling for bronze as a material..."

T G Rosenthal review of Grosvenor Gallery Exhibition, 1966

Equally high praise was received from other critics, many galleries were interested in representing him and staging further shows, but it was in 1966 that public visibility of Kenett's sculpture ended. Suddenly, and with no explanation, he stopped exhibiting.

From that time on he became a recluse from the art world. In his small studio flat in Kensington he pursued his vision in private, creating a large body of work over the next four decades until his death in 2012. A few were cast in bronze. Mostly he created highly finished models in polished plaster.

It is a selection of these plaster sculptures that will be shown at Willer from 23 January 2013. Discovered following Kenett's death in 2012 in the studio where he had created them, the beautifully executed, timeless pieces explore abstraction of natural and built forms in three dimensions.

Set out below are highlights of Kenett's biography, photography, and sculpture achievements:

- 1925 Born Berlin
- 1939 Arrives in England
- WWII Serves in US Intelligence Corps, interest in photography develops
On discharge, enrolls at Guildford School of Art to study photography, winning the photography prize for 'The Sculptures of Michelangelo'.
- 1952 Commissioned by the Arts Council to survey photograph 'Royal Tombs of Westminster Abbey' for exhibition to mark the coronation
- 1953 Exhibition at the Tate Gallery ('Unknown Political Prisoner' competition)
- 1954 Acting head of the Photography School, London School of Printing and Graphic Arts
- 1955 Receives travelling Fellowship from the American Bollingen Foundation
- 1958 Photographic survey of life in Mexico
- 1959 Commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum (NYC) to produce a photographic study of the Cloisters
- 1959 Commissioned by publisher George Rainbird to take the first colour photographs of the Tutankhamen find
- 1962 Photographic survey of 100 Nigerian sculptures
- 1963 Publication of 'Acanthus History of Sculpture: Ancient Egypt' and 'Tutankhamen' Photographs by Kenett, text by the Chief Curator of the National Museum of France
- 1964 Recipient of Finalist Prize, Littlewoods Sculptural Design (first one man exhibition) competition, Liverpool
- 1964 Selected for Commonwealth Institute Art Gallery sculpture exhibition
- 1966 Exhibition of sculpture at the Grosvenor Gallery
- 1968 Publication of catalogue raisonné, photographs of sculpture
- 2012 Dies, London