

ALISON KNOWLES

As a noted intermedia artist and founding member of the Fluxus movement, Alison Knowles holds a unique place in contemporary art, living and working at the heart of a worldwide community of artists whose much debated and highly influential actions have transformed the terms on which art is defined, created and experienced in our times.

Recognized internationally as an innovator whose vision sparked the emergence of now widely embraced new media, including performance art, installations, sound art and bookmaking, Alison Knowles continues to innovate, pursuing a creative process that often combines these diverse practices into intermedia works which use everyday materials and foodstuffs to focus on the interdependence of sight, sound, taste and touch, and to probe meaning and beauty in the small event, peripheral experience and immediate moment.

Educated as a painter, Alison Knowles studied with Joseph Albers, Richard Lindner, and Adolph Gottlieb, and quickly began to test the limits of canvas and a single-discipline orientation. Throughout her career, she has continued to expand this spirit of experimentation, and to share it with generations of young artists as a guest lecturer and visiting artist at leading art and design schools in the U.S. and Europe.

Honored with a European retrospective in 1995, Alison Knowles has been featured in major venues internationally, including the Centre Pompidou, Urawa Art Museum, Documenta X, and Venice Biennale, as well as the Guggenheim, Whitney, and Los Angeles Contemporary Art Museums, among others. In 2003, she received the College Art Association's Distinguished Artist Award for Lifetime Achievement, signaling a fresh appraisal of a professional career that spans more than 40 years and has influenced and intersected with so many other notable figures in the field of contemporary art.

For her achievement as a visual artist, for her sustained spirit of exploration and creativity, and for her generosity toward young artists, we are proud to recognize Alison Knowles and to award her the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Fine Arts.

MAINE COLLEGE OF ART
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