

Victor Pasmore

Edward John Victor Pasmore was born in 1908 in Chelsham, Surrey. From abstraction to figuration and back again, Pasmore's work can be seen as organic, chromatic, romantic, expressive and geometric. Pasmore began his education in 1923 at Harrow, where he studied traditional academic painting. In 1927, he attended the Central School of Art; soon after graduation the artist was elected to the London Artist' Association. At this point, Pasmore was painting in a highly colored fauvist style, mostly executed as still lifes. In 1923 he joined the London Group, where he became interested in abstraction and exhibited at the Objective Abstraction Exhibition. Soon afterwards, however, Pasmore returned to representational art, resuming work with living models. In 1937, along with the artists Coldstream and Rogers, Pasmore developed the Euston Road School, where he became a full time painting instructor. During his period at the school, he painted a series of landscapes on the banks of the Thames, all of which were executed in tempered tones. By the 1950's, Pasmore's work had departed from high representation and was becoming increasingly geometric. With the influence of the artist Ben Nicholson, Pasmore began to create black and white constructivist pieces using wood and Perspex. At this time, the artist drew inspiration from such artists as Paul Klee and Piet Mondrian. After a visit to Malta in the sixties, chromatic value became a priority in Pasmore's work. When the Euston Road School dissolved, the artist began teaching in 1943 at the Camberwell School of Art and at the Central School of Art. Pasmore is credited with having introduced the Bauhaus teaching method into English art education. After World War Two, Pasmore executed a series of post war abstract relief paintings and sculptures along with fellow artists Kenneth Martin and Robert Adams. In 1955 he became the Master of Painting at King's College, Newcastle; he held this position until relocating to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, where he held a position as the Director of Painting in the institution's department of Art. Pasmore moved to Malta in 1966, where he continued to work until his death in 1998.

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