



Louise Nevelson

HISTORY

Louise Nevelson was born in Kiev, Russia, in 1899, but a few years later her family settled in Rockland, Maine. Nevelson knew she wanted to be an artist at an early age and studied different media - painting, sculpture, printing - in Germany and New York. In the 1940s she began experimenting with different materials, like the junk she found on the streets of New York. She gained notoriety over the next few decades for her monumental assemblage art and personal style.

KNOWN FOR

Louise Nevelson is known for challenging ideas of female sculpture with her abstract expressionist sculpture walls. The walls are made with objects, from architectural scraps to knick-knacks and furniture pieces, that Nevelson carefully arranged and then spray-painted monochromatically in black, white, and occasionally gold. The individual objects come together to create unified stories of culture, nature, and feminine identity. Alongside her art, Nevelson is known for her distinctive personal style, characterized by glamorous outfits, heavy makeup, and unique hairstyles.

CAREER

At age 33, Nevelson moved to Germany to study Cubism with Hans Hofmann. She followed Hofmann to New York City, where she studied various media at the Art Students League and developed a Modernist style. Years later she began working with wood and other found materials but didn't gain recognition until her work was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art. From there, other galleries and collectors began clamoring for her work. When she was 80 years old, she created the Louise Nevelson Plaza in lower Manhattan, the first plaza in New York dedicated to an artist. Neel did not gain much recognition until the 1970s.



1899-1988



American Sculptor



Famous for large-scale, monochromatic assemblage sculptures

FAMOUS WORKS

Sky Cathedral, 1958

Black Wall, 1959

Dawn's Wedding Feast, 1959

Royal Tide I, 1960

Shadows and Flags, 1978

Biography.com Editors. (2014, April 2). *Louise Nevelson biography*.

Retrieved from <https://www.biography.com/people/louise-nevelson-20854319>

Louise Nevelson. Retrieved from <https://www.guggenheim.org/artwork/artist/louise-nevelson>

Louise Nevelson (1958). *Sky Cathedral* [Paint on wood].