



Stanley Bowman

April 27, 1934 – July 5, 2021

Professor Emeritus Stanley Bowman was known to his colleagues and students as Stan in the Department of Art at Cornell University. He was well known for his brightly colored shirts and suspenders as well as the large oversized images that covered his studio office wall, from giant plywood cutouts to strikingly black and white Xerox images and computer-manipulated images. A true creative spirit he embraced a research practice in contemporary art moving from architecture, to photography, to digital photography, and later experimenting with the i-phone and its applications, video, animation, music and giclée printing.

Stan was born in Oakland California on April 27, 1934 in Oakland, California, the youngest son of Joseph Walter and Hazel (Almquist) Bowman. In 1957 he entered Berkley's architecture program, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. His early job in architecture gave way to a life-long passion in photography. He completed his Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Mexico in Albuquerque concentrating in photography. He was hired at Cornell in the Department of Art in the College of Architecture, Art, and Planning to develop the photography concentration.

Former student Laurie Snyder recalled, “Stan was a generous and caring teacher. He patiently explained the intricacies of the craft of photography, as well as introduced various concepts about image making. His classes were a pleasant mixture of encouragement and challenge. As the years went on, Stan hired me to teach various classes at Cornell and encouraged me to seek the MFA at Syracuse University. After more than 30 years of teaching, I realize that Stan informed my teaching style. He was a role model of the artist who creates and the teacher who shares his excitement and craft. He was always trying new techniques and ideas and shared his enthusiasm from his own research and practice. I am thankful that our paths crossed in many significant ways.”

In the mid-seventies the contemporary art world was moving through a radical shift in its obsessions with formalism to confronting the social issues of the time and photography was in the middle of that upheaval. Cornell MFA alumni Kathy Morris (1976) explained “Having spent the previous years away from academia, immersed in the burgeoning Feminist Art Movement, I was on fire with a new view of the world. I had a lot to say during Stan’s class, especially about depictions of women by male photographers. At some point, Stan came to me and said, in his quiet, thoughtful way, if I might present a slide presentation for the class. I spent weeks on research on women photographers and making slides of women’s imagery. Thanks to Stan’s open mind, that presentation expanded into many years of research, lectures, and nourishing connections with other women.”

Professor Bowman nurtured the department of photography from 1973 until he retired in 1999. Professor Bowman was the Chairperson of the Department of Art from 1980-1985, was Associate Dean of the College of Architecture, Art and Planning from 1992 to 1996 and Acting Dean for the College from 1996-1997.

Stanley Bowman is quoted as saying of photography, “Photography is picture making. It is about seeing, feeling, expressing...and it is magic! When it comes to my art I am an explorer.

Photography was first for me in the 1950's as it opened ways of seeing and picture making that I had not experienced before. Then in the 1980's as the result of a Cornell University grant I was able to get state of the art computer equipment and software and started exploring photography through this new technology." Professor Bowman was seminal in the development and incorporation of art and technology into the art curriculum. A Cornell grant provided a research platform for him to develop courses in Computer Art from 1990 to 1998, directing an intern program in computer graphics with a NYC advertising firm. After his retirement, Stan continued to teach Introduction to Digital Imaging classes during the summer after his retirement with an emphasis on digital imaging as a tool and photography.

Professor Emeritus of Art Barry Perlus recalled "As digital technology evolved, Stan moved right along with it, finding ways to use new devices and their expanded capacities for artistic ends in both his work and his teaching. His engagement provided a model for me as a new assistant professor and showed me what was possible at Cornell. His trailblazing for the arts and technology helped me and other art faculty to adopt technology in the art studios."

Stan Bowman's work is represented in several international and national collections including the University of New Mexico Museum of Art, Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Catskill Center of Photography, Catskill, New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California, the Bibliothek Nationale de Paris, the Erie Art Museum, Erie, Pennsylvania, the Musees D'Aurillac, Aurillac, France, and the German Photographic Society, Cologne, Germany.

Stan Bowman had numerous exhibitions including the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Chicago Art Institute, University of New Mexico Art Museum, University of Rhode Island, Colgate University, the Memorial Art Gallery, OK Harris Gallery in NYC, Center for Photographic Studies in Holland, Gallerie Artoque in Lyon, France, Photogaleria 58 in the Netherlands, Photokin in Koln,

Germany, Royal Danish Academy in the Netherlands. His work, both text and images, was published in such periodicals as *The Village Voice*, *Innovative Printmaking*, and *Zoom* magazine.

Stan, with his wife Mary Ann Bowman, also an artist and ceramicist, participated actively in many local Ithaca galleries including the State-of-the-Art Gallery. Stan served for many years as President of the cooperative gallery. Both he and Mary Anne were very active participants of the Ithaca Art Trail for many years, opening up their studios to many Ithaca residents yearly.

Professor Stan Bowman is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Mary Ann Bowman. They have two sons Eric and Greg and two grandsons, Benjamin and William. The entire Cornell Community extend their condolences to the entire family. Emeritus Professor Stan Bowman leaves behind him many students and colleagues who miss him.

Written by Renate Ferro and Paul Ramirez Jonas