

Alexander Liberman

Alexander Liberman was a Russian-American artist known for his signature red steel sculptures and geometric paintings, in addition to his 30-year tenure at the helm of Condé Nast Publications as its editorial director. Initially hired as an art director for Vogue upon moving to the United States in 1941, his keen, exacting eye for visuals combined fashion shoots with Modern Art—a memorable spread used Jackson Pollock’s paintings as a backdrop for Cecil Beaton’s photographs a decade later. Born September 4, 1912 in Kiev, Russia (now Ukraine), Liberman studied in Paris at the Sorbonne and the École des Beaux-Arts, focusing on philosophy and architecture. His work at the magazine VU in the 1930s introduced him to celebrated photographers, such as Brassai, Man Ray, and Henri Cartier-Bresson, and started his career in publishing. The painter and sculptor died on November 19, 1999 in Miami, FL after a career spent shaping periodicals in tandem with a robust artistic practice. “It’s tradition and at the same time a revolt against it that [still] governs my creative thinking,” the artist had said.

Timeline

1912 Born in Kiev, Ukraine

1930 Studied Architecture at the École des Beaux Arts, Paris, France

1937 Gold Medal for Design, Exposition Internationale, Paris, France

1941 Moved to New York, USA

1963 Commissioned by architect Philip Johnson to create a pavilion at the

1964-65 World's Fair, New York, USA

1980 D.F.A. Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, USA, Honorary Degree

1962-94 Editorial Director of Condé Nast publications, Art Director at Vogue Magazine

1999 Died in Miami, USA

Exhibitions

2008 American Abstraction, Mitchell-Innes and Nash, New York, USA

2006 Alexander Liberman, Mitchell-Innes and Nash, New York, USA

2003 Photographs of Artists by Alexander Liberman, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, USA

2002 Alexander Liberman: Maquettes for Monuments, Manny Silverman Gallery,
Los Angeles, USA

1971 Hammar skjold Sculpture Garden, New York, USA