



Andrew Hudson

July 9, 1935 - January 12, 2024

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Andrew Hudson, artist, teacher and critic, died in his home in Washington, DC, on January 12, 2024. He was 88 years old.

Born in Birmingham, England, Hudson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Magdalen College of Oxford University. He then began his career as a painter with studies at the Slade School in London. In 1961, Hudson immigrated to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, where he continued his art studies and began to write art criticism.

Hudson's writing impressed the eminent critic Clement Greenberg, who recommended him to Washington Post publisher Katherine Graham for a position as the newspaper's art critic. Hudson joined the Post staff in 1965. While on the paper, he was noted for his fearless critiques of both established and unknown artists. Greenberg called him "one of the best young art critics in the country." Among his repertorial coups, Hudson was the only critic allowed to inspect the National Gallery of Art's prize purchase, Leonardo da Vinci's portrait of Ginevra de' Benci, while the painting was still in its climate-controlled transition chamber before public viewing.

Hudson was dismissed from the Post in 1967. He ascribed his dismissal to a mediocre review he had given to a gallery show of the work of Mary Pinchot Meyer, the late sister-in-law of Post editor Ben Bradlee.

After leaving the Post, Hudson became curator of education at the

Washington Gallery of Modern Art. He later joined the faculty of the Corcoran School of Art, where he taught for more than 30 years. At the Corcoran, Hudson inspired students to think beyond the usual art historical clichés, basing his teaching on experiential knowledge.

During his academic career, Hudson continued to create art. His paintings were exhibited in galleries in Washington, New York, Germany, France, and Switzerland, and examples of his work figure in the collections of the National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian American Art Museum, and Luther W. Brady Art Gallery at George Washington University. Hudson remained a key figure in the DC art scene and enjoyed friendships with art world figures such as Jules and Katrina Olitski, Adolph Gottlieb, and painter Blaine Larson.

The grandson of two Anglican priests, Hudson converted to Roman Catholicism as a young man. He later followed a spiritual path that led him to Zen Buddhist practice. For more than 20 years, he led the Mintwood Zendo, a weekly meditation group for the LGBTQ community. He was also certified to lead workshops in the Sensory Awareness techniques developed by Charlotte Selver.

Hudson was preceded in death by his parents, John C. and Audrey Hudson, and his brother Christopher Hudson. He is survived by two nephews, David and Edward Hudson, both of England.

Tribute Wall

ER

“ Sorry to be so late, but I just found out about Andrew’s passing... I met Andrew in 1979 at the P Street Zendo before he started his Mintwood Zendo subsequently. I also briefly modeled for him and collected several of his works over the years... A GREAT SOUL!! R.I.P, Andrew...
Namu Dai Bosa...

Eric Kaljo Roos - January 10, 2025 at 09:16 PM

KF

“ I have only just found out about the sad passing of Andrew. He was my 2nd cousin (once removed) but he always felt like an "Uncle figure" As a child/young adult I recall his visits to our family home when he visited my grandmother and would love to talk to him about our passion of family history. It was back in 1982 that he gifted me a family history chart of work he had undertaken at that time on our ancestral tree. Many email communications have taken place since then, our latest as recent as November 2023, sharing our finds and updating our information. We both shared the love of adding "stories to the facts" a truly lovely man and I will miss him. Even though the ocean kept us physically apart, we were able to communicate through email.

Thoughts go to his nephews (my 3rd cousins) and friends, a truly spiritual and kind person, Karen

Karen Fretwell - December 10, 2024 at 10:03 AM

RS

“ Andrew was the first critic to ever notice my work and encourage me. We became friends in the 60's and I did his portrait, a photographic gum print.
He was important to the development of the Washington art scene, and a well liked artist.

Robert Stark - August 10, 2024 at 01:58 PM

DW

“ I met Andrew several years ago and was fortunate to see him in his element at his apartment on Mintwood Place. I regret not keeping up with him for the past few years -- but he will live on in my memory as a gregarious soul!

David W. White - March 03, 2024 at 04:29 PM

EJ

“ I was a student of Andrew's in the mid 80s at the Corcoran. He was a wonderful teacher, kind , gifted in speech and always supportive. He encouraged us to keep a one hundred dollar bill in our wallet, never to spend, but to make us feel good about our prospects. Miss him a lot. Eddie Janney

Eddie Janney - February 23, 2024 at 05:44 PM