

ETTORE SOTTASS

1917 born in Innsbruck, AT

2007 died in Milan, IT

- 1917 Born in Innsbruck, Austria to an Italian father, the architect Ettore Sottsass Sr. and an Austrian mother, Antonia Peintner
- 1929 Family moved to Turin so Ettore Jr. could study architecture
- 1936 Traveled to Paris with no money. Stayed in a flophouse near Gare de Lyon and survived on two cans of preserved fruit in three days
- 1939 Graduated in architecture from Turin University only to be called up into the Italian army. Spent most of World War II in a concentration camp
- 1945 Returned home to work for his father. Moved to Milan in 1946 to curate a craft exhibition at the Triennale. Began to contribute to Domus magazine. Set up his own architectural and industrial design practice
- 1956 Traveled to New York to work in George Nelson's studio for one month. Back in Italy, he was invited to design furniture for Poltronova
- 1958 Appointed as design consultant to Olivetti's new electronics division.
- 1959 Launch of Elea 9003 calculator; worked on Tekne electronic typewriter.
- 1961 Traveled to India for three months; became gravely ill and was hospitalized in Milan, sent to United States by Roberto Olivetti for medical treatment.
- 1965 Designed pop-influenced totem ceramics and the first superbox closets coated in stripped plastic laminate.
- 1967 Co-founded the Planeta Fresco literary magazine with Allen Ginsberg.
- 1970 Won the Compasso d'Oro for Valentine typewriter. Art directed an ad campaign featuring the Valentine held by people all over the world.
- 1972 Participated in *The New Domestic Landscape* at Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1973 Founded *Global Tools design school* with Archizoom and Superstudio
- 1978 Collaborated with Alessandro Mendini and Andrea Branzi on Studio Alchimia's exhibition of 'new design' furniture at Milan Furniture Fair
- 1980 Formed Memphis design collective

- 1981 Over 2,000 people attended the opening celebration for the first Memphis exhibition, Milan, IT
Founded Sottsass Associati
- 1985 Announced departure from Memphis.
Returned to architecture at Sottsass Associati where he completed numerous industrial design projects
- 2000 Sottsass Associati designed Milan's Malpensa airport, Italy
- 2001 Opening of Memphis Remembered at the Design Museum, London, UK
Received title of *Grande Ufficiale per l'Ordine al Merito* from the President of the Italian Republic
- 2007 Died December 31, in Milan, IT

Selected Museum and Public Collections

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Design Museum, London, England
Design Museum, Ghent, Belgium
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Montreal, Montreal, Canada
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France
Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Italy
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Neues Museum, Nuremberg, Germany
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands
Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

Selected exhibitions

- 2018 Ettore Sottsass: *Retrospective*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, NL
- 2017-18 Ettore Sottsass: *There is a Planet*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, IT
- 2017 Ettore Sottsass: *Design Radical*, The Met Breuer, New York, US
Ettore Sottsass: *Rebel and Poet*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, DE
Ettore Sottsass: *Designer of the World*, Château de Montsoreau, Montsoreau, FR
Ettore Sottsass: *The Glass. Le Stanze del Vetro*, Venice, IT
- 2015 Ettore Sottsass, Friedman Benda, New York, US
Melancholia (Systema Saturnium), Galerie Guido W. Baudach, Berlin, DE
- 2014 Sottsass, Galerie Azzedine Alaïa, Paris, France
- 2013-15 *Bangles to Benches: Contemporary Jewelry and Design*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

- 2012 *Ettore Sottsass: Keramik (Ceramic), Hetjens-Museum Dusseldorf, Deutsches Keramikmuseum, Dusseldorf, Germany*
- 2011 *Postmodernism, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK*
Shiro Kuramata and Ettore Sottsass, 21_21 Design SightTokyo, J
Enamels 1958, Kunsthal, Rotterdam, NL
- 2010 *European Design Since 1985, Shaping the New Century. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA*
Un Piccolo Omaggio a Mondrian, Friedman Benda, New York, NY
- 2009 *European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN*
- 2009-08 *Homage à Ettore Sottsass, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR*
- 2008 *Ettore Sottsass Archetypes 1965-1995, Friedman Benda, New York, NY*
Design Cities, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul, TR
Vorrei Sapere Perchè, una mostra su Ettore Sottsass, Trieste Museum, Trieste, IT
Berlin Biennale für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Berlin, DE
- 2007 *Design contre Design—Deux siècles de creations, Galerie Nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, FR*
Ettore Sottsass, Ghent Museum, Ghent, BL
Ettore Sottsass A Life in Design, Design Museum, London, UK
Metafore, Gallerie Enrico Formello, Prato, IT
- 2006 *Ettore Sottsass: Architect and Designer, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, US*
- 2005 *Ettore Sottsass, Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, IT*
- 2004 *Ettore Sottsass, Museo di Capodimonte, Naples, IT*
Ettore Sottsass, Barry Friedman Ltd., New York, NY
US Design. 1975-2000, Traveling exhibition, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, US
- 2003 *20 Years of Designs for Olivetti, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR*
Ettore Sottsass, Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Cologne, DE
Ettore Sottsass, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Rome, IT
US Design. 1975-2000. Traveling exhibition, Bass Museum of Art, Miami, FL (February-May); American Craft Museum, New York, NY (June-October)
- 2002 *Biennale di Venezia, Venice, IT*
- 2001 *Memphis Remembered, The London Design Museum, London, UK*
- 2000 *Museum of Modern Art, Gifu, J*
Suntory Museum, Osaka, J
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, US
- 1999 *Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea L. Pecci, Prato, IT*
Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland
Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, NL
Niitsu Art Forum, Niigata, J
Living Design Center Ozone, Tokyo, J
- 1997 *Gallery Binnen, Amsterdam, NL*
Designed for Delight. Alternative aspects of twentieth-century decorative arts, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec, CDN; Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, US; Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, Montreal, Quebec, CDN; Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Paris, FR; Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie, Krakow, PL; Die Neue Sammlung, Munich, DE; J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY; Virginia; Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- 1996 *Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, CH*
Venice Biennial, IT
Galleria Dessa, Ljubljana, SI
Gallery Ma, Tokyo, Japan
Mourmans Gallery, Knokke, BE
Design Gallery, Milan, IT

- Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, NL
 Niitsu Art Forum, Niigata, J
 Living Design Center Ozone, Tokyo, J
 1994 Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, FR
 Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, CH
 1993 *Ettore Sottsass: Adesso pero. Reisseerinnerungen*, Deichtorhallen Museum, Hamburg, DE
La ultima oportunidad de ser vanguardia, Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, ES
 Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, DE
 1991 *Il dolce Stilnovo della casa*, *Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, IT*
 Venice Biennial, Venice, IT
Abitare Italia, Tokyo, J
 Energieen Exhibition, *Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL*
 1990 *Memphis 1981-1988, Traveling exhibition: Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL*
 1989 *Yamagiwa Art Foundation, Tokyo, J*
 1988 *Bharata, Design Gallery, Milan, IT*
 1987 *Ettore Sottsass: Furniture for the Ritual of Life*, *Blum Helmann Gallery, New York, US*
Documenta 8, Kassel, DE
 1986 *Caravelles, Musée Saint-Pierre art contemporain, Lyon, FR*
Design Since 1945, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, US
 1985 *Ceremonial Lights, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL*
XVII Milan Triennial, Milan, IT
Golden Eye: An International Tribute to the Artisans of India, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, US
 1983-84 *Design Since 1945, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, US*
XVII Milan Triennial, Milan, IT
Golden Eye: An International Tribute to the Artisans of India, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, US
 1982 *Materialidea, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, IT*
 1981 *Axis Gallery, Tokyo, J*
 1980 *Forum Design, Linz, AT*
 1978 *Venice Biennial. Venice, IT*
 1976 *MAN transforms, The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY*
Ettore Sottsass Jr. De l'objet fini à la fin de l'objet, Musée des Arts décoratif, Paris, FR
 Design Zentrum, Berlin, DE
Venice Biennial, Venice, IT
Centro de Diseño Industrial, Barcelona, ES
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL
Visual Art Board, Sydney, AUS
 1975 *Architectural Studies and Projects*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, US
 1972 *The New Domestic Landscape*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, US
 1969 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Paesaggio per una pianeta fresco, Sverige Arkitekturmuseum, Stockholm, S
Ceramiche tantriche, Galleria la Nuova Loggia, Bologna, IT
Ceramiche di fumo, Galleria il Sestante, Milan, IT
 1968 *Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY*
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, NL
Design Center, Milan, IT
 1967 *Ceramiche sbagliate*, Poltronova, IT
Ettore Sottsass Jr. La Bertesca, Genoa, IT

- Menhirs, Ziggurat, Stupas, Hydrant & Gas Pumps*, Galleria Sperone, Genova, IT
 1966 Centro Fly Casa, Milan, IT
 1965 Galleria Sperone, Turin, IT
 La Casa abitata, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, IT
Le belle ragazze, Libreria Feltrinelli, Milan, IT
 1965 *Offerta a Shiva*, Galleria Aquilone, Florence, IT
 Galleria il Sestante, Milan, IT
 Galleria Tornabuoni, Florence, IT
 1963 Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea. Bari, IT
Ceramiche delle Tenebre, Galleria il Sestante, Milan, IT
 1961 *New York from Italy*, Bolles Gallery, San Francisco, CA
 Goldsmit's Hall, London, UK
 1960 XII Milan Triennial, Milan, IT
 1958 Galleria il Sestante, Milan, IT
 1957 XI Milan Triennial. Milan, IT
 Galleria il Sestante, Milan, IT
 1957 Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, IT
 Galleria del Cavallino, Venice, IT
 1954 X Milan Triennial. Milan, IT
 1946 VIII Milan Triennial. Milan, IT
 Palais des Beaux-Art, Paris, FR

Awards

- 2001 Honorary degree from the London Institute of Art, London, GB
 Honorary degree in Industrial Design from the Milan Polytechnic, Milan, IT
 Title of *Grande Ufficiale per l'Ordine al Merito* from the President of the Italian Republic
 1999 *Honorary degree from the Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, UK*
 1997 *Oribe Award, Gifu, J*
 1996 *Honorary Doctorate from the Royal College of Art, London, UK*
Award in Design from the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
 1994 *iF Award Design Kopfe from the Industrie Forum Design, Hanover, DE*
 1993 *Honorary degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, US*
 1993 *Honorary degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, US*
 1992 *Awarded Officier of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic*