

RICHARD ESTES

Richard Estes is a photorealist painter famed for his meticulous attention to detail and invisible brushwork. He was born in Kewanee, Illinois, on May 14, 1932, but moved to Chicago with his family at a young age. From 1952 to 1956, Estes studied fine art at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he was exposed to early realist artists such as Edgar Degas and Thomas Eakins. He relocated to New York after graduating and worked for the next 10 years as a commercial artist for various publishers in New York and Spain. By 1966, the artist had saved up enough money to paint full time.

In the 1960s, Estes and his contemporaries, including painter Chuck Close and sculptor Duane Hanson, helped photorealism emerge from modern art movements such as pop art and minimalism.

His paintings are reproductions of photographs he takes of urban landscapes, most of which are realistic representations of Manhattan, with few to no people on the streets and sidewalks. He often exaggerates the detail in his imagery by using mirrored objects and reflections. *Double Self-portrait* (1976), one of his most well-known works, is a great example of how he uses reflection to expand the depth of an image.

In 1971, Estes was granted a fellowship with the National Council for the Arts. During the 1970s, he was chosen three times to represent the United States at the Biennales in Venice and Basel. He also received the MECA Award for Achievement as a Visual Artist from Maine College of Art. In the 1980s, Estes began painting landscapes of Chicago, Paris, Florence, and other cities he visited. The artist went on to create a series of seascapes in the 1990s, which mainly consisted of representations of the coast of Maine where he lives and works when not in New York.

Biographical Information

1936 Born in Kewanee, Illinois

Education

1952–1956 Studied at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, Illinois

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Selected Exhibitions

- 2021 *Richard Estes: Urban Landscapes*, Portland Museum of Art
Richard Estes: Voyages, Menconi Schoelkopf
- 2017 *Richard Estes: Obra Reciente*, Marlborough Barcelona; Barcelona, Spain
The American Dream: American Realism 1945–2017, Drents Museum; Assen, Netherlands; Kunsthalle Emden, Germany
- 2016 Solo Exhibition, Art Basel Miami Beach; Miami, Florida
Summer Group Exhibition, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Art of Acadia, Northeast Harbor Library; Northeast Harbor, Maine
- 2015 *Richard Estes: Painting New York City*, Museum of Art and Design, New York
Richard Estes: African Sketches, Marlborough Broome Street, New York
Summer Group Exhibition, Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 2014 *Richard Estes: Recent Paintings*; Marlborough Gallery, New York
Richard Estes' Realism: A Retrospective, The Portland Museum of Art; Portland, Maine
Photorealism: Revisited, Mana Contemporary; Jersey City, New Jersey
- 2013 *Photorealism*, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; Birmingham, England
Fernando Botero, Richard Estes, Manolo Valdes: Peintures et Sculptures; Marlborough Monaco; Monte Carlo, Monaco
- 2012 *Richard Estes: New York by Night*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Richard Estes: The Urban Landscape, Sims Reed Gallery, United Kingdom
Guggenheim Collection: The American Avant-Garde 1945–1980; Palazzo delle Esposizioni; Rome, Italy
Painting Air: Spencer Finch, Museum of Rhode Island School of Design; Providence, Rhode Island
(Space) Travel, Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University; Ithaca, New York
ReFocus: Art of the '70s, Museum of Contemporary Art; Jacksonville, Florida
Photorealism: Painting with a Camera, Kunsthalle Tübingen; Tübingen, Germany
Exposition de groupe, Marlborough Monaco, Monaco

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Selected Exhibitions (continued)

- 2012 *Leben Mit Pop!* Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig; Leipzig, Germany
Multiplicity, Arkansas Arts Center; Little Rock, Arkansas
Group Exhibition, Marlborough Monaco, Monaco
Summer Group Exhibition, Marlborough New York, New York
Optical Noise, David Winton Bell Gallery; Providence, Rhode Island
- 2011 *Multiplicity*, Smithsonian American Art Museum; Washington, D.C.
Summer Group Exhibition; Marlborough Gallery, New York
Recent Acquisitions, Reading Public Museum; Reading, Pennsylvania
The American Art: Masterpieces of Everyday Life from the Whitney Museum of American Art, National Museum of Contemporary Art and the National Art Museum; Deoksugung, Korea
Our Own Directions: Four Decades of Photorealism from the Louis K. and Susan P. Meisel Collection, Mana Contemporary; Jersey City, New Jersey
East of Eden/Photorealism: Versions of Reality/Photorealism as a Cold War Phenomenon, Ludwig Museum; Budapest, Hungary
An American Collection, National Academy Museum and School, New York
The 100th Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art: The Vision Endures, Maier Museum of Art at Randolph College; Lynchburg, Virginia
New York For Sale, Katonah Museum of Art; Katonah, New York
Scream Collection Part II, Scream London; London, England
Hyper Real: Kunst und Amerika um 1970, Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst; Aachen, Germany
Graphics Group Exhibition, Marlborough New York, New York
- 2010 *Richard Estes*, Marlborough Monaco; Monte Carlo, Monaco
Realism, the Adventure of Reality: Courbet, Hopper, Gursky..., Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung; Munich, Germany
10 ans déjà, Marlborough Monaco; Monte Carlo, Monaco
- 2009 *Summer Exhibition*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Volunteer Voices: Selections from the Collection of the Kemper Museum, The Kemper Museum; Kansas City, Missouri
American Dream, The National Museum of Krakow; Krakow, Poland
Cityscapes: Work of the Photorealists, Art Museum of Southeast Texas; Beaumont, Texas

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Selected Exhibitions (continued)

- 2009 *Picturing America: Photorealism in the 1970s*, Deutsche Guggenheim; Berlin, Germany
- 2008 *Richard Estes: Antarctica, New England and New York*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Richard Estes: Die Serigraphien, Edition Domberger; Filderstadt, Germany
Shock of the Real: Photorealism Revisited, Boca Raton Museum of Art; Boca Raton, Florida
Group Exhibition, Marlborough Monaco; Monte Carlo, Monaco
- 2007 *Richard Estes—La sensualità del reale*, Palazzo Magnani, Reggio Emilia; Florence, Italy. Traveled to Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza; Madrid, Spain
Summer Exhibition, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Painting and Sculpture, Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 2006 *Richard Estes: Recent Work*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Variations on a Theme: American Prints from Albers to Lichtenstein, A Selection from the Anderson Graphic Arts Collection; Fisher Gallery, University of Southern California; Los Angeles, California
Highlights: Print Selections from the Permanent Collection, The Museum of the Arts of Virginia Commonwealth University, Anderson Gallery; Richmond, Virginia
- 2005 *Sets, Series and Suites: Contemporary Prints*, Museum of Fine Arts; Boston, Massachusetts
Landscape, Cityscape, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Big City: Cityscapes and Urban Life from the Collection, Orme Lewis Gallery, Art Museum; Phoenix, Arizona
Who is Imitating Whom? Photography and Photo-Realism in Art, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska; Lincoln, Nebraska. Traveled to Chadron State College, Chadron Nebraska; McKinley Center, North Platte, Nebraska; Cornerstone Bank, Hork, Nebraska; High Plains Museum, McCook, Nebraska; Stuhr Museum, Grand Island, Nebraska; and Columbus Art Gallery, Columbus, Nebraska.
- 2004 *La Ingeniería Civil en la Pintura*, Sala de Exposiciones de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando; Madrid, Spain

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Selected Exhibitions (continued)

- 2003 *Pinturas Recientes*, AMS Marlborough; Santiago, Chile
Oeuvres Récentes, Marlborough Monaco, Monaco
- 2002 *Tools as Art: The Hechinger Collection*. Traveled to City Museum, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2001 *Richard Estes: Recent Paintings*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
Richard Estes: Recent Works, Marlborough Fine Art; London, England
- 1999 *Richard Estes*, Central Cultural Recoleta; Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1998 *Richard Estes: Obra Reciente*, Galeria Marlborough; Madrid, Spain
Richard Estes: Six New Paintings, Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 1995 *Richard Estes: New York Paintings*, Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 1992–1995 *Richard Estes: The Complete Prints*, The Museums at Stonybrook, New York. Traveled to Canton Art Institute, Canton, Ohio; Middlebury College Museum of Art, Middlebury, Vermont; Louisiana Arts & Science Museum, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Columbia Museum of Art, Columbia, South Carolina; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama; Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, Tennessee; and other venues.
- 1993 *Richard Estes: New York Cityscapes*, FIAC 1993 and Grand Palais for Marlborough Gallery, New York
- 1991 *Richard Estes: Urban Landscapes*, Portland Museum of Art; Portland, Maine
- 1990 *Richard Estes 1990*, Isetan Museum of Art; Tokyo, Japan. Traveled to Museum of Art, Kinetsu, Osaka, Japan; and Hiroshima City Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima, Japan.
Richard Estes: The Complete Prints and the Japan Paintings, Sert Gallery, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University; Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1985 Louis K. Meisel Gallery, New York

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Selected Exhibitions (continued)

- 1983 *Richard Estes: A Decade*, Allan Stone Gallery, New York
- 1978–1979 *Richard Estes: The Urban Landscape*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts. Traveled to Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
- 1974 *Richard Estes*, Museum of Contemporary Art; Chicago, Illinois
- 1972 Allan Stone Gallery, New York
Thirty-sixth International Biennial Exhibition; Venice, Italy
- 1968 Hudson River Museum; Yonkers, New York
Allan Stone Gallery, New York
- 1967 *Biennial Exhibition of American Art*, Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois; Champaign-Urbana, Illinois
- 1966 *American Watercolor Society Ninety-ninth Annual Exhibition*, National Academy Galleries, New York

Public Collections

Académie Française; Paris, France
Addison Gallery of American Art Phillips Academy; Andover, Massachusetts
Albright-Knox Art Gallery; Buffalo, New York
Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College; Oberlin, Ohio
Akron Art Museum; Akron, Ohio
Art Institute of Chicago; Chicago, Illinois
Art Museum of Southeast Texas; Beaumont, Texas
Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango; Bogotá, Colombia
Boca Raton Museum of Art; Boca Raton, Florida
Butler Institute of American Art; Youngstown, Ohio
Colby College Museum of Art; Waterville, Maine
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art; Bentonville, Arkansas
Currier Gallery of Art; Manchester, New Hampshire
Des Moines Art Center; Des Moines, Iowa
Detroit Institute of Arts; Detroit, Michigan
Erie Museum; Erie, Pennsylvania
Farnsworth Art Museum; Rockland, Maine
Fine Arts Museum; San Francisco, California
Flint Institute of Arts; Flint, Michigan
Fort Wayne Museum of Art; Fort Wayne, Indiana
Harvard Art Museum; Cambridge, Massachusetts

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Public Collections (continued)

Herbert F. Johnson Museum; Cornell University; Cornell, New York
Hechinger Collection; Washington, D.C.
High Museum of Art; Atlanta, Georgia
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; Washington, D.C.
Indianapolis Museum of Art; Indianapolis, Indiana
J. P. Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art; Kansas City, Missouri
La Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango; Bogotá, Colombia
Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami; Miami, Florida
Ludwig Forum for Internationale Kunst; Aachen, Germany
Museum Ludwig; Budapest, Hungary
Museum Ludwig; Cologne, Germany
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig; Vienna, Austria
Neue Galerie der Stadt Aachen Ludwig Collection; Aachen, Germany
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
MIT List Visual Arts Center; Cambridge, Massachusetts
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Fort Worth, Texas
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza; Madrid, Spain
Museum of Contemporary Art; Chicago, Illinois
Museum of Fine Arts; Boston, Massachusetts
National Academy, New York
National Air And Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C.
National Gallery of Art; Washington, D.C.
National Gallery of Australia; Canberra, Australia
Nelson-Atkins Museum Of Art; Kansas City, Missouri
Neue Galerie der Stadt Aachen, Ludwig Collection; Aachen, Germany
Norton Simon Museum Of Art; Pasadena, California
Orlando Museum of Art; Orlando, Florida
Philadelphia Museum of Art; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Portland Museum of Art; Portland, Maine
Portland Art Museum; Portland, Oregon
Princeton Museum of Fine Arts; Princeton, New Jersey
Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art; South Brisbane, Australia
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University; Waltham, Massachusetts
San Antonio Museum of Art; San Antonio, Texas
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; San Francisco, California
Scheringa Museum voor Realisme; Spanbroek, Netherlands
Smith College Museum of Art; Northampton, Massachusetts
Smithsonian American Art Museum; Washington, D.C.
Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C.
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
Springfield Museum of Fine Arts; Springfield, Massachusetts
Sydney and Walda Besthoff Foundation
Tate Gallery; London, England

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Public Collections (continued)

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art; Tehran, Iran
The Brooklyn Museum of Art; Brooklyn, New York
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens; San Marino, California
The Virlane Foundation; New Orleans, Louisiana
Toledo Museum of Art; Toledo, Ohio
VandenBroek Foundation, Netherlands
Vero Beach Museum; Vero Beach, Florida
Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; Richmond, Virginia
Walker Art Center; Minneapolis, Minnesota
Westmoreland Museum of American Art; Greensburg, Pennsylvania
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Worcester Art Museum Collection; Worcester, Massachusetts
Yale University Art Gallery; New Haven, Connecticut

Selected Publications

- 2017 Drents Museum. *The American Dream: American Realism 1945–2017*. Assen: Drents Museum, Marlborough Inc. *Richard Estes: Obra Reciente*. Barcelona: Marlborough Barcelona.
- 2015 Sims, Patterson. *Richard Estes Painting New York City*. New York: Museum of Arts and Design, 2015.
- 2014 Sims, Patterson; May, Jessica; and Ferrulli, Helen. *Richard Estes Realism*. Washington: Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine, and Smithsonian American Art Museum.
- 2012 Marlborough Inc. *Richard Estes: New York by Night*. New York: Marlborough Gallery.
- 2006 Wilmerding, John. *Richard Estes*. New York: Rizzoli.
- 1993 Arthur, John. *Richard Estes: Paintings & Prints*. Petaluma, California: Pomegranate Communications.
- 1979 Canaday, John. *Richard Estes: The Urban Landscape*. New York: New York Graphic Society.