



THE ESTATE OF SOREL ETROG

Sorel Etrog (1933 – 2014) Biography

- 1933 Born in Iași, Romania.
- 1945 Begins to study art.
- 1950 Emigrates to Israel.
- 1953 - 1955 Studies drawing, painting, sculpture, graphics and theatre set design at Tel Aviv Art Institute.
- 1956 First group exhibition, Israel Painters' & Sculptures' Association, Tel Aviv.
- 1958 First solo exhibition, Z.O.A. House, Tel Aviv.
Awarded scholarship to study at the Brooklyn Museum Art School.
- 1959 Meets well-known Toronto collector Sam Zacks who buys painted construction White Scaffolding.
Zacks offers Etrog a studio in Southampton, Ontario for the summer.
First Canadian solo exhibition at Gallery Moos, Toronto.
James Johnson Sweeney, Director of the Guggenheim Museum in New York, selects sculpture for the museum's collection.
- 1961 Famed US collector Joseph Hirshhorn buys multiple works by the artist.
- 1963 Alfred H. Barr, Founding Director of MoMA, NY, selects sculpture for the museum's collection.
After commuting between Toronto and New York, closes New York studio and settles in Toronto.
- 1965 Begins casting in Italy and opens a studio in Firenze.
- 1966 Becomes a Canadian citizen.
Represents Canada at the Venice Biennale along with Alex Coleville and Yves Gaucher.



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- 1967 Commissioned by the Canadian government to create Moses and Flight for Expo '67, Montreal.
Designs and illustrates book *The Bird that Does not Exist* by Claude Aveline.
Monograph *Sorel Etrog: Sculpture* by William Withrow.
- 1968 Marries the Turkish-born, Israeli-based Lika Behar.
Designs the Canadian film award, the "Etrog" (renamed "Genie" in the 1980's).
Meets Eugene Ionesco in Paris.
Monograph by Theodore Allen Heinrich, *The Painted Constructions 1952 – 1960 of Sorel Etrog*.
Monograph by Carlo L. Ragghianti *Sorel Etrog: Sculptures, Engraving, Lithographs, Documents*.
Opens *One Decade*, the traveling exhibition organized by the AGO with an accompanied catalogue, which travels to 11 venues throughout Ontario.
- 1969 Designs and illustrates book *Chocs* by Eugene Ionesco.
Upon meeting Samuel Beckett, draws his portrait.
- 1971 Designs the medallion commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.
- 1975 Writes and directs film, *Spiral*, broadcast on CBC.
- 1976 Collaborates with Marshall McLuhan on the publication *Spiral* and other related projects.
- 1978 Designs sets and costumes for stage play *The Celtic Hero: Four Cuchulain Plays* by W.B. Yates, at Toronto's Bayview Theatre.
- 1979 Divorces Lika.
Represents Canada at Art Expo in Bari, Italy.
- 1979 - 1980 Studio in Paris.
- 1982 Curates important exhibition of contemporary outdoor sculpture at the Guild Inn Scarborough, Ontario.



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Publishes “Dream Chamber: Joyce and the Dada Circus” in Dream Chamber / About Roaratorio, edited by Robert O’Driscoll.

Designs and illustrates book Imagination Dead Imagination by Samuel Beckett.

Installation Musicage celebrating 70th birthday of composer John Cage, Toronto.

- 1984 Illustrates, Choreographs and composes electronic music for public performance “The Bodifestation of the Kite,” a tribute to Samuel Beckett, dance by Gloria Luoma of the National Ballet of Canada, at the Grunwald Gallery, Toronto.
Commissioned to create Sunlife, a large outdoor sculpture for Sun Life Assurance of Canada.
- 1988 Commissioned to create Powersoul for the summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.
- 1994 Sunbird II is installed in Reviere Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Normandy by Canadian Forces.
- 1995 Named Member of the Order of Canada.
- 1996 Appointed Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts & des Lettres by France.
- 1997 Designs Annual Award: Prix Alliance Française Toronto (Canada France Cultural Award) for French Consulate.
- 2001 Monograph published Sorel Etrog by Pierre Restany.
Participates in the Vancouver sculpture project, Open Spaces.
- 2003 Thirty year sculpture retrospective at Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Palm Desert, CA.
- 2005 Represents Canada in the inaugural Vancouver International Biennale, awarded Lifetime Achievement Award by the Biennale Board of Directors.
- 2013 Retrospective at the Art Gallery of Ontario: Sorel Etrog: Five Decades.
- 2014 Passes away in Toronto.
- 2016 The Hennick Family Wellness Gallery at Mount Sinai opens with 86 works donated by the artist.