ETTORE SOTTsass
1917 - 2007

2007  Died December 31, in Milan, Italy

Received title of Grande Ufficiale per l’Ordine al Merito from the President of the
Italian Republic

2000  Sottsass Associati designed Milan’s Malpensa airport, Italy

1985  Announced departure from Memphis
Returned to architecture at Sottsass Associati where he completed numerous
industrial design projects

1981  Over 2,000 people attended the opening celebration for the first Memphis exhibition,
Milan, Italy
Founded Sottsass Associati

1980  Formed Memphis design collective

1978  Collaborated with Alessandro Mendini and Andrea Branzi on Studio Alchimia’s
exhibition of ‘new design’ furniture at Milan Furniture Fair

1973  Founded Global Tools design school with Archizoom and Superstudio

1972  Participated in Italy: The New Domestic Landscape at Museum of Modern Art, New
York, NY

1970  Won the Compasso d’Oro for Valentine typewriter
Art directed an ad campaign featuring the Valentine held by people all over the world

1967  Co-founded the Planeta Fresco literary magazine with Allen Ginsberg

1965  Designed pop-influenced totem ceramics and the first superbox closets coated in
stripped plastic laminate.

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

1959  Launch of Elea 9003 calculator; worked on Tekne electronic typewriter
1958  Appointed as design consultant to Olivetti's new electronics division

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 Polotronova

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

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

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

1929  Family moved to Turin so Ettore Jr. could study architecture

1917  Born in Innsbruck, Austria to an Italian father, the architect Ettore Sottsass Sr., and
      an Austrian mother, Antonia Peintner

Select Museum and Public Collections

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY
Centre National d’Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Design Museum, London, England
Design Museum, Ghent, Belgium
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
M+ Museum, West Kowloon, Hong Kong
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Montreal, Montreal, Canada
Musée National d’Art Moderne, Paris, France
Musaeo 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
St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO

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Select Exhibitions

2019-2020  
*Memphis Plastic Field*, Musee des Arts Decoratifs et du Design, Bordeaux, France

2019  
*Ettore Sottsass and the Social Factory*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL
*Less Is a Bore: Maximalist Art & Design*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

2018  
*Ettore Sottsass*, More Gallery, Giswil, Switzerland

2017-2018  
*Celebrating Ceramics: 100 Years of Ettore Sottsass*, Design Museum Den Bosch, The Netherlands
*Ettore Sottsass. Oltre il Design*, CSAC, University of Parma, Italy
*Ettore Sottsass: There is a Planet*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy
*Space Oddities: Bowie / Sottsass / Memphis*, Modernism Museum of Mount Dora, Mount Dora, FL

2017  
*Ettore Sottsass: Design Radical*, The Met Breuer, New York, NY
*Ettore Sottsass: Rebel and Poet*, Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, Germany
*Ettore Sottsass: Designer of the World*, Château de Montsoreau, Montsoreau, France
*Ettore Sottsass: The Glass. Le Stanze del Vetro*, Venice, Italy

2015  
*Ettore Sottsass*, Friedman Benda, New York, NY

2014  
*Sottsass*, Galerie Azzedine Alaïa, Paris, France

2013-2015  
*Bangles to Benches: Contemporary Jewelry and Design*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA

2012  
*Ettore Sottsass: Keramik (Ceramic)*, Hetjens-Museum Dusseldorf, Deutches Keramikmuseum, Dusseldorf, Germany

2011  
*Postmodernism*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
*Shiro Kuramata and Ettore Sottsass*, 21_21 Design Sight, Tokyo, Japan
*Enamels 1958*, Kunsthall, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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| 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 |                                              |
| 2008-2009 | *Homage à Ettore Sottsass,* Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France |                                              |
| 2008 | *Ettore Sottsass Archetypes 1965-1995,* Friedman Benda, New York, NY  
*Design Cities,* Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul, Turkey  
*Vorrei Sapere Perche, una mostra su Ettore Sottsass,* Trieste Museum, Trieste, Italy  
*Berlin Biennale für Zeitgenössische Kunst,* Berlin, Germany |                                              |
| 2007 | *Design contre Design—Deux siècles de creations,* Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, France  
*Ettore Sottsass,* Ghent Museum, Ghent, Belgium  
*Ettore Sottsass New Works 2005-2007,* Friedman Benda, New York, NY  
*Ettore Sottsass A Life in Design,* Design Museum, London, UK  
*Metafore,* Gallerie Enrico Formello, Prato, Italy |                                              |
| 2006 | *Ettore Sottsass: Architect and Designer,* Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA |                                              |
| 2005 | *Ettore Sottsass,* Museo d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Italy |                                              |
| 2004 | *Ettore Sottsass,* Museo di Capodimonte, Naples, Italy  
*Ettore Sottsass,* Barry Friedman Ltd., New York, NY  
| 2003 | *20 Years of Designs for Olivetti,* Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France  
*Ettore Sottsass,* Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Cologne, Germany  
*Ettore Sottsass,* Museo d’Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy  
*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, Italy |                                              |
2000

*Museum of Modern Art*, Gifu, Japan
*Suntory Museum*, Osaka, Japan
Marugame Museum of Contemporary Art, Japan
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL

1999

Centro per l’Arte Contemporanea L. Pecci, Prato, Italy
Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland
Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, Netherlands
Niitsu Art Forum, Niigata, Japan
Living Design Center Ozone, Tokyo, Japan

1997

Gallery Binnen, Amsterdarm, Netherlands
*Designed for Delight. Alternative aspects of twentieth-century decorative arts*,
Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec, Canada; Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH; Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Musee des Arts Decoratifs, Paris, France Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie, Krakow, Poland; Die Neue Sammlung, Munich, Germany; J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA

1996

Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, Switzerland
Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy
Galleria Dessa, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Gallery Ma, Tokyo, Japan
Mourmans Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
Design Gallery, Milan, Italy

1994

*Ettore Sottsass: Retrospective*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, Switzerland

1993

*Ettore Sottsass: Adesso pero. Reisseeinnerungen*, Deichtorhallen Museum, Hamburg, Germany
*La ultima oportunidad de ser vanguardia*, Centre d’Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain
Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, Germany

1991

*Il dolce Stilnovo della casa*, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy
Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy
Abitare Italia, Tokyo, Japan
*Energieen Exhibition*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1990


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Netherlands; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1989  Yamagiwa Art Foundation, Tokyo, Japan

1988  Bharata, Design Gallery, Milan, Italy


*Documenta 8*, Kassel, Germany

1986  *Caravelles*, Musée Saint-Pierre art contemporain, Lyon, France

*Design Since 1945*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA

1985  *Ceremonial Lights*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

XVII Milan Triennial, Milan, Italy


1982  Materialidea, Padiglione d’Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy

1981  Axis Galley, Tokyo, Japan

1980  Forum Design, Linz, Austria

1978  Venice Biennial. Venice, Italy


*Ettore Sottsass Jr. De l’objet fini à la fin de l’objet*, Musée des Arts décoratif, Paris, France

Design Zentrum, Berlin, Germany

Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy

Centro de Diseño Industrial, Barcelona, Spain

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

Visual Art Board, Sidney, Australia


1972  *The New Domestic Landscape*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

1969  Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

*Paesaggio per una pianeta fresco*, Sverige Arckitecturmuseum, Stockholm,

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Sweden

*Ceramiche tantriche*, Galleria la Nuova Loggia, Bologna, Italy
*Ceramiche di fumo*, Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy

1968
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Design Center, Milan, Italy

1967
*Ceramiche sbagliate*, Poltronova, Italy
*Ettore Sottsass Jr. La Bertesca*, Genoa, Italy
*Menhirs, Ziggurat, Stupas, Hydrant & Gas Pumps*, Galleria Sperone, Genova, Italy

1966
Centro Fly Casa, Milan, Italy

1965
Galleria Sperone, Turin, Italy
*La Casa abitata*, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy
*Le belle ragazze*, Libreria Feltrinelli, Milan, Italy

1964
*Offerta a Shiva*, Galleria Aquilone, Florence, Italy
Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy
Galleria Tornabuoni, Florence, Italy

1963
Biennale d’Arte Contemporanea. Bari, Italy
*Ceramiche delle Tenebre*, Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy

1961
*New York from Italy*, Bolles Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Goldsmit’s Hall, London, UK

1960
XII Milan Triennial, Milan, Italy

1958
Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy

1957
XI Milan Triennial. Milan, Italy
Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy

1955
Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy
Galleria del Cavallino, Venice, Italy

1954
X Milan Triennial. Milan, Italy

1946
VIII Milan Triennial. Milan, Italy
Awards

Honorary degree in Industrial Design from the Milan Polytechnic, Milan, Italy
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, Scotland

1997  Oribe Award, Gifu, Japan

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, Germany

1993  Honorary degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

1992  Awarded Officier of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic

Select Literature


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Select Press

2017


Ng, Elaine. “Shifting Objects: Design from the M+ Collection,” *Art Asia Pacific*, May/June 2017.


2016


2015


Miller, Meg. 3 Unsung, Pre-Memphis Designs From Ettore Sottsass,” *Fast Co. Design*, October 1, 2015.


Indrisek, Scott. “5 Must-See Gallery Shows in New York: Ron Nagle, Keegan McHargue, and More,”
Blouin Artinfo, September 21, 2015.

Moscowitz, Tamara. “Rare Works from Ettore Sottsass at Friedman Benda,” Woman Around Town, September 19, 2015.


2014


2013

2012

2011

Liddell, CB. “Designs on love, dreams, and fun,” The Japan Times, April 1, 2011.


2010


2009

2008


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2000

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1986


1986

1980

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1969


