ETTORE SOTTSASS
1917 - 2007

Select Museum and Public Collections

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, NY
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
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 Montréal, 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

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 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  *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

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

*Shiro Kuramata and Ettore Sottsass*, 21_21 Design Sight, Tokyo, Japan  
*Enamels 1958*, Kunsthai, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

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

FRIEDMAN BENDA  515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM  TELEPHONE 212 239 8700  FAX 212 239 8760
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, Galleria Enrico Formello, Prato, Italy

2006
Ettore Sottsass: Architect and Designer, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), 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

2001

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, Amsterdam, 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
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
- Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, Switzerland

1993
- \textit{Ettore Sottsass: Adesso pero. Reisseeinrnerungen}, Deichtorhallen Museum, Hamburg, Germany
- \textit{La ultima oportunidad de ser vanguardia}, Centre d’Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain
- Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, Germany

1991
- \textit{Il dolce Stilnovo della casa}, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy
- Abitare Italia, Tokyo, Japan
- \textit{Energieen Exhibition}, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1990

1989
- Yamagiwa Art Foundation, Tokyo, Japan

1988
- \textit{Bharata}, Design Gallery, Milan, Italy

1987
- \textit{Ettore Sottsass: Furniture for the Ritual of Life}, Blum Helmann Gallery, New York, NY
- Documenta 8, Kassel, Germany

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

1985
- \textit{Ceremonial Lights}, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
- XVII Milan Triennial, Milan, Italy
- \textit{Golden Eye: An International Tribute to the Artisans of India}, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, NY

1983-84

1982
- \textit{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, 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, Genoa, 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  
      Goldsmith’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
       Palais des Beaux-Art, Paris, France

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


FRIEDMAN BENDA  515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANNBENDA.COM  TELEPHONE 212 239 8700  FAX 212 239 8760


Press

2017


Halperin, Julia. “See the 10 Hottest Objects at This Year’s Design Miami/Basel,” Artnet News, June 16, 2017.


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

2016


2015

Morfin, Marcelina. “23 Amazing Art Exhibitions In America,” The Culture Trip, Fall 2015.


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


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


FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001
FRIEDMANBENDA.COM  TELEPHONE 212 239 8700  FAX 212 239 8760


2014


2013

2012

2011

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


2010


2009


2008


2007


2006

2005

2004

2003

2000

1986

1986

1980

1970

1969

1968
