

In memoriam

Roy Osborne

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Shirley Anne Koller (1921-2017), American artist, curator and teacher specialising in colour theory. She studied at Cleveland Institute of Art and Case Western Reserve University, Ohio, and the American University in Washington, where she became a long-time resident of the Watergate Building. She was the last and one of the lesser known of the city's 'Color Field Painters' – Paul Reed having died in 2015. She taught primarily at the Northern Virginia College, Alexandria (where I lectured for her in 1983), as well as being an active contributor to the Artists' Equity Association and the American Association for the Advancement for Science (retiring at the age of 90). She latterly made colourfully painted sculptures, one of which was installed at Washington's Ballston Metro station (1990-92). Koller died in Providence, Rhode Island, on September 25, 2017.



Shirley Koller, *Pink Floyd* (acrylic on canvas)

William Howard Gass (1924-2017), American novelist and professor of philosophy, who published an extended essay, *On Being Blue: A Philosophical Enquiry*, in 1991, described by Brian Dillon as 'a catalogue containing blue things, desires, concepts and usages' concerning 'his obsession with lists – blue jeans, blue stockings, blue movies ... melancholia and sex.' Gass studied at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, and Cornell University, Ithaca. He later taught at Purdue University, West Lafayette, and Washington University, St Louis. He received numerous literary awards, and died on December 6, 2017.

Julian Stanczak (1928-2017), Polish-American painter and printmaker who studied at Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio, and with Josef Albers at Yale University. In 1940 he lost the use of his right arm as a consequence of incarceration in a Siberian labour camp, before escaping and joining the Polish army-in-exile in Iran. He lived in London briefly before moving (in 1950) to Cleveland, later teaching at Cincinnati Academy of Art and then Cleveland Institute of Art (where I lectured for him in 1984). A highly inventive colourist, his paintings were entirely about subtle colour contrasts and illusions. A year before MOMA's *The Responsive Eye* exhibition (1965), Stanczak's first major New York show coined the term 'Optical Paintings' in its title. He died in Seven Hills, Ohio, on March 25, 2017.

Tom Norman Cornsweet (1929-2017), American cognitive psychologist and inventor, known for his studies of visual perception and the development of ophthalmic instruments, including those for eye-tracking. He is perhaps best known for the Cornsweet (or Craik-O'Brien-Cornsweet) illusion, where the lighter side of a vertical division appears even lighter, and the darker side appears even darker. He first examines the effect in his *Visual Perception*, of 1970. Where several vertical divisions are repeated, Josef Albers (1963, Chapter 15) likens it to the fluting of a Doric column. Exaggerations of the illusion are also seen in Seurat's 1880s drawings and Klee's 1920s watercolours. Cornsweet studied at Cornell University, Ithaca, and Brown University, Providence. He was later professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley and Irvine, and at Stanford Research Institute. He died on November 11, 2017.

Donald Holden (1931-2017), Californian-born realist painter who studied at the Art Students League and Columbia University, New York, and Ohio State University, Columbus. He later worked at Philadelphia College of Art and the Metropolitan Museum, and then as arts editor at Fortune magazine and at Watson-Guptill Publishers, where he published his *Whistler's Landscapes and Seascapes* (1969) and *The Color Book: A Comprehensive Guide* (1981, under the pseudonym Wendon Blake). Examples of his watercolours are in over 40 public collections. Holden died in Irvington, New York, on April 25, 2017.

Claudio Oleari (1944-2018), prominent Italian physicist who was 'the last and ultimate authority on OSA-UCS color space and perceptually uniform color.' In 1995 he founded the Gruppo in Colorimetria e Reflectoscopia, which later became the Associazione Italiana Colore. His fields of study included applying physics to perception, and establishing their role in colorimetry. He was associate professor at the University of Parma, and author of *Misurare il colore: spettrofotometria, fotometria e colorimetria* (1998). Prof Oleari died on January 23 in Reggio Emilia.

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