

### **About Beverly Pepper (1922 - 2020)**

Born in 1922 in Brooklyn, Beverly Pepper trained to be a painter. After studying under Fernand Léger and André Lhote at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris, Pepper moved to Italy in the 1950s. Later in 1960, a trip to Angkor Wat inspired her to turn to sculpture. Pepper's first exhibition of wooden sculptures was held at the Pogliani Gallery in Rome in 1961. In 1962, she participated in the landmark exhibition, *Sculpture Nella Citta*, along with David Smith and Alexander Calder in Spoleto, Italy. In addition to a lifetime of gallery exhibitions, she had numerous solo museum shows, among them those at the Albright-Knox Gallery, The Brooklyn Museum, New York and the San Francisco Museum of Art, California, and most recently, Museo dell'Ara Pacis in Rome.

Pepper's sculptures developed over months and often years, starting from free spontaneous drawings then working into rigorous preparatory drawings followed by precisely scaled models. This developmental progression ensured that the large-scale works advance the spontaneity of the original concept. Pepper worked "hands on" with her long-term fabricator in Assisi, Italy, creating fully realized sculptures that preserve her signature energy and economy of form. Works such as *Broken Circle and Double Palimpsest* are both muscular and elegant and project a quiet contained energy, while *Medea* spirals laterally with a suggestion of the artist's spontaneous drawings.

In 2013, Pepper was awarded the International Sculpture Center's Lifetime Achievement Award as an acknowledgement of her significant contribution to sculpture. Previous recipients include Louise Bourgeois, Frank Stella and Anthony Caro.

Throughout her career Pepper has realized numerous public commissions around the world and is represented in the permanent collections of leading institutions including The National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Centre Pompidou, Paris, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, the Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC and the Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Rome. Solo museum shows include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Brooklyn Museum, New York and The Contemporary Sculpture Center, Tokyo.