



Margaret Benyon 1940-2016

Holographic Pioneer and Artist

Margaret was born in Birmingham but grew up in Kenya, she studied painting at the Slade School graduating in 1962. She questioned that a painting should be treated as a flat surface and employed various techniques including "optical illusions and colour to modulate the picture plane so that it no longer looked flat. She also created anaglyph paintings, which appeared three dimensional when viewed through special glasses with differently coloured lenses. From 1968-1971 she held a fellowship in fine art at Nottm University, where she began experimenting with holography being given use of a lab in the mechanical engineering department. In 1969 the University's art gallery displayed her holograms in what has been called the world's "**first** solo art holography show" and later she had a show at the Lisson Gallery in London. From 1971-1973 she was a Leverhulme Senior Art fellow at Strathclyde university and had two more exhibitions in Nottingham and in Edinburgh. She spent 1976-1981 in Australia and after her return to England began working with pulse lasers, setting up her own holography studio in Dorset between 1981 and 1993. She earned a PhD from the Royal College of Art in 1994 for her thesis entitled *How is Holography Art?* and received an OBE in 2000 "for services to art". Benyon has been called "the mother of British holography". She returned to Australia and died there in 2016