

ANITA KUNZ OC, DFA, RCA

Biography

Canadian by birth, Anita Kunz has lived in London, New York and Toronto, and has been widely published in countries including Germany, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Canada, South Africa, Holland, Portugal, France and England.

Her socially and politically themed work has been printed in major publications such as Time magazine, Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair, The New Yorker, GQ, The New York Times, Newsweek, Random House Publishing and many others.

Articles about her work have appeared in Graphis and Novumgebrauchsgrafik magazines (Switzerland), Communication Arts and Step by Step magazine (USA), Idea, Illustration and Creation magazines (Japan), Applied Arts (Canada), Nuvo (Canada) and The Design Journal (Korea).

From 1988 to 1990 she was one of two artists chosen by Rolling Stone magazine to produce a monthly illustrated History of Rock 'n Roll end paper.

She has produced cover art for many publications including Rolling Stone Magazine, The New Yorker, Sports Illustrated, Time Magazine, Newsweek Magazine, the Atlantic Monthly and The New York Times Magazine. She has also illustrated more than fifty book jacket covers.

Anita frequently teaches workshops and lectures at universities and institutions internationally including the Smithsonian and the Corcoran in Washington DC. She has lectured and taught in such far flung places as India and Istanbul. Her summer workshops have been conducted at various schools including the Masters of Art degree program at Syracuse University.

She has been honored with many prestigious awards and medals and her critically acclaimed paintings and sculptures have appeared in galleries and museums world wide, including the Norman Rockwell Museum in Massachusetts, The Museum of American Illustration in New York and the Teatrio Cultural Association in Rome Italy.

Her works are in the permanent collections at the Library of Congress, the Canadian Archives in Ottawa, the McCord Museum in Montreal, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rome, and two of her Time Magazine cover paintings are in the permanent collection at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC. Her most recent museum acquisition is at the Museum of the Avant-garde in Switzerland.

In 1987 she showed a collection of her works at Canada House in Trafalgar Square London. In 1997 she had a one woman show at the Foreign Press office in New York City, in 1998 she had a solo show at the Creation Gallery in Tokyo, and the Society of Illustrators Museum of American Illustration mounted a mid-career retrospective of her work in the fall of 2000. She has also had solo shows at the Govinda Gallery in Washington DC and more recently at the Art Institute of Boston and Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

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In the fall of 2003 she was the first woman and the first Canadian to be celebrated with a solo show at the Library of Congress in Washington DC.

In 2000 she was invited to speak as one of The New Yorker magazine cover artists at the annual New Yorker Festival in New York and in 2001 and again in 2004, she was invited to speak at ideaCity, a think tank of luminaries from the fields of medicine, politics, science and the arts in Toronto.

In spring of 2007 Anita gave a short presentation about her New Yorker covers at the prestigious TED conference in Monterey California. She also gave a presentation of her work at the EG conference in Carmel Callifornia.

From 2000 to 2003 she served on the Board of Directors of the Illustration conference. In 2004 she served as chair for the Society of Illustrators Museum of American Illustration annual exhibit and later served as chair of the Museum Committee there.

In 1997 she received the Les Usherwood Lifetime Achievement Award from the Advertising and Design Club of Canada. She was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts in 2009. Anita was also named one of the fifty most influential women in Canada by the National Post newspaper.

She has received 3 Honorary Doctorates, one from the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto, a second from MassArt College of Art and Design in Boston and a third from the Northwest Pacific College of Art, Portland Oregon.

She has been appointed Officer of the Order of Canada and received Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee Medal of Honor.

She was inducted in the Museum of American Illustration Hall of Fame in New York in 2017. That same year The Toronto arts and Letters club presented to her the JEH MacDonald award.

In 2018, Canada Post released a postage stamp honoring her work as a Canadian illustrator and artist. That same year The Ontario College of Art and Design gave her the "Alumni of Influence" award.

In 2021, Kunz released two art books she wrote and illustrated. The first, "Another History of Art", was published by Fantagraphics Books, and is a satirical look at the history art from a different perspective. And the second, "Original Sisters: Portraits of Tenacity and Courage", is published by Pantheon Press, and is a collection of painted portraits of unsung female heroes. A third book was released in 2023, called "Striking a Pose; A Handy Guide to the Male Nude" (Fantagraphics).

The Museum of the Avant-garde in Switzerland presented her with the Gerald Scarfe award in 2022 for her book "Another History of Art"

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