



## **MARISOL: A Pop Art Superstar**

### SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Whitney Chadwick, *Women, Art, and Society* (Thames & Hudson, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2020)  
Cathleen Chaffee, et al, *Marisol: A Retrospective*, catalogue for international touring exhibition (Buffalo AKG and DelMonico Books, scheduled for publication in 2023)  
Delia Gaze (ed.), *Dictionary of Women Artists* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 1997), 2 volumes; note, in particular, the 20 introductory essays  
Lucinda H. Gedeon (ed.), *Marisol* (Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY, 2001)  
Nancy G. Heller, *Women Artists: An Illustrated History* (Abbeville Press, 4th ed., 2003)  
Lucy Lippard, *Pop Art* (Thames & Hudson, 1966)  
Carol Anne Mahsun (ed.), *Pop Art: The Critical Dialogue* (UMI Research Press, 1989)  
Marina Pacini (ed.), et al, *Marisol: Sculptures and Works on Paper* (Yale University Press, 2014)  
Sid Sachs and Kalliopi Minioudaki (eds.), *Seductive Subversion: Women Pop Artists, 1958-1968* (Abbeville Press, 2010)  
Charlotte Streifer Rubinstein, *American Women Sculptors: A History of Women Working in Three Dimensions* (G. K. Hall, 1990)

### NAMES, TERMS, & CONCEPTS

- Pop Art  
popular culture  
Abstract Expressionism  
some other notable female Pop artists: Marjorie Strider, Dorothy Grebenak, Rosalyn Drexler  
Andy Warhol  
art schools Marisol attended: Otis Art Institute & Jepson Art Institution (L.A.); l'École des Beaux-Arts & Académie Julian (Paris); Art Students League, New School for Social Research, Hans Hofmann's studio, & Brooklyn Museum School (NYC)  
relief sculpture, vs. freestanding sculpture  
printers' boxes  
pre-Columbian art  
life masks  
Dada

Surrealism  
 self-portraits  
 assemblage  
 collage

PRINCIPAL ARTWORKS DISCUSSED (in the order in which they were presented; all by Marisol)

*The American Family* (relief sculpture), 1956 (Goucher College Collection, Baltimore, MD)

*Printer's Box*, 1958 (Snite Museum, University of Notre Dame, Indiana)

*Dinner Date*, 1963 (Yale University Art Gallery)

*The Party*, 1966 (Toledo [Ohio] Museum of Art)

*Love*, 1962 (Museum of Modern Art, NYC)

*The Fishman*, 1973 (Buffalo AKG Art Museum)

*Mi mamá y yo*, 1968 (Buffalo AKG Art Museum)

*My Father*, 1977 (Buffalo AKG Art Museum)

*The Family* (with baby carriage), 1963 (Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH)

*The Family* (mother with 4 children; no father), 1962 (Museum of Modern Art, NYC)

*The Family* (Mary, Joseph, & Infant Jesus), 1969, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, TN)

*Horace Poolaw*, 1993 (Buffalo AKG Museum of Art)

[1977-1981 series of portraits of world leaders and iconic artists]

*Father Damien*, 1969 (casts in the U.S. Capitol building, and Honolulu, Hawai'i)

*Women and Dog*, 1964 (Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC)

#### BASIC CHRONOLOGY:

May 22, 1930, Marisol was born in Paris, France. In their early years, she and her older brother traveled frequently--in their parents' native Venezuela, plus Europe, and the U.S.

1941, Marisol's mother committed suicide (Marisol was eleven). She pledged not to speak unless necessary; became very religious. Spent a year at a boarding school on Long Island, NY. Thereafter, more family travel; Marisol attended various schools.

1946, family relocated to Los Angeles, CA, where Marisol attended several more schools, and took night-time art classes at a number of major institutions.

1949, after graduating from h.s. studied art in Paris for a year.

1950, moved to NYC; again studied art at several different institutions.

1954, switched from painting to sculpture--ceramics, initially; then wood, stone, plaster, plastic, and other materials). Later, she also produced drawings, prints, costume and set designs for modern-dance troupes, and more.

1950s, hung out at Cedar Bar; continued art classes; had work in her first group exhibition (1956).

1957, 1<sup>st</sup> one-person exhibition (at Leo Castelli Gallery in NYC); rave reviews. Left NYC to travel, for c.18 months.

- 1962, back in NYC, left the Castelli Gallery for the Stable Gallery. Her sculptures began to be acquired by major museums. International fame.
- 1964, switched to the Sidney Janis Gallery, where she had numerous solo exhibits and Her national and international fame increased greatly.
- By the late 1960s, was exhibiting her work in Germany, Holland, England, and Japan; represented Venezuela at the 1968 Venice Biennale; had work in Documenta (1968). Once again, left New York for an extended international trip—including time spent learning to scuba dive in Tahiti.
- 1970s, back in NYC, Marisol's work began to receive less attention (exhibitions, press) Than before. However, she was becoming more famous in Venezuela, where Marisol was commissioned to design several public monuments. 1977-1981, She produced a series of portraits of famous older artists.
- 1980s/90s, more focus on themes involving poverty, hunger.
- 1993, left Janis for the Marlborough Gallery; was there until 2001; not represented by a gallery, thereafter. 1990s, received many honors and awards.
- 2001, Marisol's first museum retrospective exhibition, at the Neuberger Museum of Art (Purchase Collage, NY state)
- 2014, influential retrospective exhibition at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art in Tennessee.
- April 30, 2016, Marisol died, in NYC; she was 85 years old.
- 2023-2025, international touring exhibition of Marisol's work set to appear in: Montréal, Québec, plus Toledo (OH), Dallas, and Buffalo.

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