

Ettore Sottsass

Born in 1917, Innsbruck, Austria

Died in 2007, Milan, Italy

Education

1939 Architecture, Turin University, Italy

Selected Exhibitions

- 2026 Ettore Sottsass: Design begins where magic begins, Artizon Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Io sono un architetto – Ettore Sottsass, Palazzo Buontalenti, Pistoia, Italy
- 2025 *Ettore Sottsass Mise en scene*, Sala Sottsass, Milano, Italy
- 2024 ETTORE SOTTASS ARCHITECTURES LANDSCAPES RUINS, Casa Lana, Milano, Italy
- 2023 Friedman Benda, New York, USA
- 2022 *ETTORE SOTTASS: HUMANISM*, The Page Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
- 2022-23 *A Chair and You*, Musée de Design et d'Arts Appliqués Contemporains, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2021-22 *Ettore Sottsass, L'Objet Magique*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2021 *Electrifying Design: A Century of Lighting*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
- 2020 *What Would Have Been*, Friedman Benda, New York, USA
- 2019-20 *Memphis Plastic Field*, Musée des Arts Decoratifs et du Design, Bordeaux, France
- 2019 *Ettore Sottsass and the Social Factory*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Florida, USA
Less Is a Bore: Maximalist Art & Design, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- 2018 *Ettore Sottsass*, More Gallery, Giswil, Switzerland
- 2017-18 *Celebrating Ceramics: 100 Years of Ettore Sottsass*, Design Museum den Bosch, Netherlands
Ettore Sottsass. Oltre il Design, CSAC, University of Parma, Italy
Ettore Sottsass: There is a Planet, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy
Space Oddities: Bowie | Sottsass | Memphis, Modernism Museum of Mount Dora, Mount Dora, Florida, USA
- 2017 *Ettore Sottsass: Design Radical*, The Met Breuer, New York, USA
Ettore Sottsass: Rebel and Poet, Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, Germany
Ettore Sottsass: Designer of the World, Château de Montsoreau, Montsoreau, France
Ettore Sottsass: The Glass. Le Stanze del Vetro, Venice, Italy
- 2015 *Ettore Sottsass*, Friedman Benda, New York, USA
- 2014 Sottsass, Galerie Azzedine Alaïa, Paris, France
- 2013-15 *Bangles to Benches: Contemporary Jewelry and Design*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
- 2012 *Ettore Sottsass, A Survey: 1992-2007*, Friedman Benda, New York, USA

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- Ettore Sottsass: Keramik (Ceramic)*, Hetjens Museum Dusseldorf, Deutsches Keramikmuseum, Dusseldorf, Germany
- 2011 *Postmodernism*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK
Shiro Kuramata and Ettore Sottsass, 21_21 Design Sight, Tokyo, Japan
Enamels 1958, Kunsthal, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2010 *European Design Since 1985, Shaping the New Century*. High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Un Piccolo Omaggio a Mondrian, Friedman Benda, New York, USA
- 2009 *European Design Since 1985: Shaping the New Century*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
- 2008-09 *Homage à Ettore Sottsass*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2008 *Ettore Sottsass Archetypes 1965-1995*, Friedman Benda, New York, USA
Design Cities, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Istanbul, Turkey
Vorrei Sapere Perché, una mostra su Ettore Sottsass, Trieste Museum, Trieste, Italy
Berlin Biennale für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 *Design contre Design—Deux siècles de créations*, Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, France
Ettore Sottsass, Ghent Museum, Ghent, Belgium
Ettore Sottsass New Works 2005-2007, Friedman Benda, New York, USA
Ettore Sottsass A Life in Design, Design Museum, London, UK
Metafore, Gallerie Enrico Formello, Prato, Italy
- 2006 *Ettore Sottsass: Architect and Designer*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, California, USA
- 2005 *Ettore Sottsass*, Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Italy
- 2004 *Ettore Sottsass*, Museo di Capodimonte, Naples, Italy
Ettore Sottsass, Barry Friedman Ltd., New York, USA
US Design. 1975-2000 (Traveling exhibition), Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee, USA
- 2003 *20 Years of Designs for Olivetti*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Ettore Sottsass, Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Cologne, Germany
Ettore Sottsass, Museo d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy
US Design. 1975-2000 (Traveling exhibition), Bass Museum of Art, Miami, Florida, USA
- 2002 Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy
- 2001 *Memphis Remembered*, The London Design Museum, London, UK
Museum of Modern Art, Gifu, Japan
Suntory Museum, Osaka, Japan
Marugame Museum of Contemporary Art, Kagawa, Japan
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 1999 Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea L. Pecci, Prato, Italy
Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland
Bonnenfantemuseum, Maastricht, Netherlands
Niitsu Art Forum, Niigata, Japan

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- Living Design Center Ozone, Tokyo, Japan
- 1997 Gallery Binnen, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Designed for Delight: Alternative Aspects of Twentieth-Century Decorative Arts, Canadian Museum of Civilization, Hull, Quebec, Canada; Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA; Montreal Museum of Decorative Arts, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France; Muzeum Narodowe w Krakowie, Krakow, Poland; Die Neue Sammlung, Munich, Germany; J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky, USA; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, USA
- 1996 Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, Switzerland
Louisville, Kentucky, USA
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, USA
Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy
Galleria Dessa, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Gallery Ma, Tokyo, Japan
Mourmans Gallery, Knokke, Belgium
Design Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 1994 *Ettore Sottsass: Retrospective*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Gallery Bischofberger, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1993 *Ettore Sottsass: Adesso pero. Reisseerinnerungen*, Deichtorhallen Museum, Hamburg, Germany
La ultima oportunidad de ser vanguardia, Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona, Spain
Vitra Design Museum, Weil-am-Rhein, Germany
- 1991 Il dolce Stilnovo della casa, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy
Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy
Abitare Italia, Tokyo, Japan
Energieen Exhibition, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1990 *Memphis 1981-1988* (Traveling exhibition), Groninger Museum, Groningen, Netherlands; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1989 Yamagiwa Art Foundation, Tokyo, Japan
- 1988 *Bharata*, Design Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 1987 *Ettore Sottsass: Furniture for the Ritual of Life*, Blum Helmann Gallery, New York, USA
Documenta 8, Kassel, Germany
- 1986 *Caravelles*, Musée Saint-Pierre art contemporain, Lyon, France
Design Since 1945, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1985 *Ceremonial Lights*, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
XVII Milan Triennial, Milan, Italy
Golden Eye: An International Tribute to the Artisans of India, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, USA
- 1983-84 *Design Since 1945*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1982 *Materialidea*, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
- 1981 Axis Galley, Tokyo, Japan

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- 1980 Forum Design, Linz, Austria
- 1978 Venice Biennial. Venice, Italy
- 1976 *MAN transforms*, The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, New York, USA
Ettore Sottsass Jr. De l'objet fini à la fin de l'objet, Musée des Arts décoratif, Paris, France
Design Zentrum, Berlin, Germany
Venice Biennial, Venice, Italy
Centro de Diseño Industrial, Barcelona, Spain
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
Visual Art Board, Sydney, Australia
- 1975 Architectural Studies and Projects, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 1972 The New Domestic Landscape, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 1969 Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Paesaggio per una pianeta fresco, Sverige Arckitekturmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden
Ceramiche tantriche, Galleria la Nuova Loggia, Bologna, Italy
Ceramiche di fumo, Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy
- 1968 Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Design Center, Milan, Italy
- 1967 *Ceramiche sbagliate*, Poltronova, Italy
Ettore Sottsass Jr. La Bertesca, Genoa, Italy
Menhirs, Ziggurat, Stupas, Hydrant & Gas Pumps, Galleria Sperone, Genoa, Italy
- 1966 Centro Fly Casa, Milan, Italy
- 1965 Galleria Sperone, Turin, Italy
La Casa abitata, Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy
Le belle ragazze, Libreria Feltrinelli, Milan, Italy
- 1964 *Offerta a Shiva*, Galleria Aquilone, Florence, Italy Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy
Galleria Tornabuoni, Florence, Italy
- 1963 Biennale d'Arte Contemporanea. Bari, Italy
Ceramiche delle Tenebre, Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy
- 1961 *New York from Italy*, Bolles Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA; Goldsmith's Hall, London, UK
- 1960 XII Milan Triennial, Milan, Italy
- 1958 Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy
- 1957 XI Milan Triennial. Milan, Italy Galleria il Sestante, Milan, Italy
- 1955 Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy Galleria del Cavallino, Venice, Italy
- 1954 X Milan Triennial. Milan, Italy
- 1946 VIII Milan Triennial. Milan, Italy Palais des Beaux-Art, Paris, France

Awards

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- 2001 Honorary degree from the London Institute of Art, London, UK
England Honorary degree in Industrial Design from the Milan Polytechnic, Milan, Italy
Title of Grande Ufficiale per l'Ordine al Merito from the President of the Italian Republic
- 1999 Honorary degree from the Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland
- 1997 Oribe Award, Gifu, Japan
- 1996 Honorary Doctorate from the Royal College of Art, London, UK
Award in Design from the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, USA
- 1994 iF Award Design Kopfe from the Industrie Forum Design, Hanover, Germany
- 1993 Honorary degree from the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
- 1992 Awarded Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters of the French Republic

Selected Collections

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA
Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, USA
Centre National d'Art et de Culture Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, UK
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia, USA
Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, New York, USA
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas, USA
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO Design Museum, London, UK
England Design Museum, Ghent, Belgium
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, Denver, Colorado, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, USA
The National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, Norway
M+ Museum, West Kowloon, Hong Kong
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
Musée des Arts Décoratifs de Montreal, Montreal, Canada
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France
Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Italy
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, Netherlands
Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, Sydney, Australia
Museum of Arts and Design, New York, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo, Norway

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Neues Museum, Nuremberg, Germany

Oklahoma State University Museum of Art, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, Netherlands

Victoria & Albert Museum, London, UK

Vitra Design Museum, Weim am Rhein, Germany