



Gunther Aron, c 1978, with Hanukkah Menorah Lamy, New Mexico, Photograph by Mark Kane

## Gunther Aron

### Chronology

- 1923 Born February 16, Jastrow, Germany (now part of Poland)
- 1937 Sent by parents to Berlin to attend the ORT, a trade school established for young Jewish boys to prepare them for an uncertain future and make easier, as far as possible, their survival in any foreign land
- 1939 A sudden and dramatic departure for England via Cologne then Holland just as Germany was invading Poland
- 1939 Further attended ORT school in England and then began working as a toolmaker in a small tool room that supplied jugs, dies and fixtures to munitions and aircraft factories
- 1947 In late December, boarded the Queen Elizabeth for the U.S. where his two sisters and brother were now living, sponsored by a relative living in the Chicago area
- 1948 Early January, arrives in the United States and travels to Chicago to live with his sisters and their husbands
- 1949 Attends evening drawing classes at School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
Begins working for Webster Chicago
- 1950-52 Attends evening classes at the Institute of Design
- 1952 Hospitalized with tuberculosis at a TB hospital in West Chicago
- 1952 Out of hospital, begins creating jewelry in basement of sister's friend in Skokie
- 1953 First shows his jewelry (copper earrings and pendants) at Chicago's Old Town Art Fair where he meets his future wife, Geri Nelson Pauling
- 1956 Enjoys working in his first real studio - a rented store at 1604 North Wells Street with living space in back. He & Geri marry in December
- 1950-73 Gunther & Geri make their home (and studio) in several locations on the Near North Side
- 1958 Gunther becomes a US citizen
- 1973 Move to Lamy, New Mexico (near Santa Fe) to an old school house purchased several years before. With some remodeling, it became both home and studio plus a studio apartment which was rented out. It was here that Gunther was extremely productive creating both menorahs and sculpture
- 1988 Feeling it was time to move to town, the Arons sold the school house and moved to Santa Fe where Gunther continued to work, making jewelry in his garage
- 2014 Gunther dies of congestive heart failure, August 27

## **Exhibitions**

The Artist's Guild of Chicago  
Chicago Public Library  
Print Exhibitions of Chicago  
*Chicago and Vicinity*, the Art Institute of Chicago  
*Midwest Momentum*, an exhibit of religious art, Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago  
Hillel Foundation, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
Jewish Community Center, Dallas  
Gary Indiana Art League  
Guild for Religious Architecture at the St. Petersburg, Florida Museum  
National Interfaith Conference on Religion & Architecture, San Antonio  
Guild for Religious Architecture, Loch Haven Art Center, Orlando  
Museum of New Mexico Crafts Biennial  
Fuller Lodge Art Center, Los Alamos, New Mexico  
National Conference on Religious Architecture; Miami and Phoenix  
Biennial Conference of American Hebrew Congregations; Toronto, Houston and Los Angeles  
Sylvia Plotkin Judaica Museum at Temple Beth Israel, Phoenix  
*Chicago's Bauhaus Legacy*, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art

## **Public Collections**

Bauhaus Chicago Foundation  
Capitol Art Collection of New Mexico  
Joods Historisch Museum, Amsterdam  
Judisches Museum, Berlin  
Skirball Museum, Los Angeles

## **Other Collections**

Congregation Beit Tikva, Santa Fe  
North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe;  
a permanent loan from the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago  
Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe

## **Publications**

Arttalk, by Rosalind Ragans  
The Chicago Tribune  
*Chicago's Bauhaus Legacy*, Volume 2  
The Chicago Daily News  
New Mexico Craft  
New Mexico Magazine  
The New Mexico Jewish Link  
The Santa Fe New Mexican and its Christmas magazine supplement, *Feliz Navidad*  
The Santa Fe Reporter and its supplement, *Adobe Christmas*  
Palm Beach World  
The Arizona Republic Arts Section  
Momentum, Chicago  
Modern Liturgy  
NATA Journal  
The Jewish Yellow Pages