**Manuel Neri**

Manuel Neri is known for his life-sized figurative sculptures and reliefs in plaster, bronze, marble, and clay, with complex surfaces that he sands, gouges, or paints as a means to direct the gestural thrust and convey an emotional inner state.

Working initially in plaster, a medium he embraced throughout his career for its malleability and variety of surface effects, Neri customarily cast his figures in small bronze editions, which he individually paints or glazes with a white surface treatment he calls Alborada, which emphasizes both surface effects and the luminous qualities of bronze.

Born in 1930 in Sanger, California, Manuel Neri studied art in the San Francisco Bay Area, enrolling in classes taught by [Peter Voulkos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Voulkos), [Richard Diebenkorn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Diebenkorn), [Elmer Bischoff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elmer_Bischoff), and [Frank Lobdell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Lobdell), among others, at [California College of Arts and Crafts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_College_of_Arts_and_Crafts) in Oakland (now CCA), and California School of Fine Arts (now [San Francisco Art Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Art_Institute)).

Neri taught sculpture at the California School of Fine Arts (1959–65) and UC Berkeley (1963-4), In 1965 he purchased a studio in Benicia, California, and joined the art department faculty at the University of California, Davis, where he taught until 1999.

Since 1965 Neri has worked in his studio in Benicia, California. In the mid-1970s he began to work in marble in Carrara, Italy, and purchased a studio there in 1981, to which he regularly returned to create marble figures, reliefs, torsos and heads.

In the 1970s, Neri met Mary Julia Klimenko, who became his principal model throughout the rest of his career, a relationship that provided a vehicle for his assertion of the figure in a contemporary sculptural context.

Honors and awards include the Bay Area Treasure Award from San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (2008), International Sculpture Center’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Contemporary Sculpture (2006), Distinguished Artist Award from the Orange County Museum of Art (Newport Beach, CA, 1999), San Francisco Arts Commission Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sculpture (1985), American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Academy-Institute Award in Art (1982), National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist Grant (1980), and Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1979), and Honorary Doctorates from The Corcoran School of Art, Washington, DC (1995), California College of Arts and Crafts (1992), and San Francisco Art Institute (1990).

Neri received sculpture commissions from the Office of the State Architect of California for The Bateson Building, Sacramento (1980-2); US General Services Administration for the US Courthouse, Portland, Oregon (1987); Laumeier Sculpture Park, Sunset Hills, MO (1994); the Gerdin Building at Iowa State University, Ames (2003); St. Anne's Church, Seattle (2003), and others.

Museums with works by Manuel Neri include the Anderson Collection at Stanford University; Art Institute of Chicago; Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University; Denver Art Museum; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Manetti Shrem Museum, Davis, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Morgan Library and Museum, New York; Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; Oakland Museum of California; Portland Art Museum, Oregon; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Seattle Art Museum; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, and many others.