

Kayne Griffin Corcoran

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Beverly Pepper's "New Particles from the Sun" at Kayne Griffin Corcoran, Los Angeles



"New Particles From The Sun," Beverly Pepper, installation view, Kayne Griffin Corcoran.

Kayne Griffin Corcoran, Los Angeles, is showcasing the gallery's second solo exhibition of works by 96-year-old American-born, Italy-based sculptor Beverly Pepper.

The exhibition highlights the work this great artist created early on in her career between 1958-1967. During this period, Pepper carved out a niche in her own signature sculptural language. In addition to early works, the exhibition includes works from later years: 1970-1980 and is on view through March 9, 2019.

The title of the show "New Particles From The Sun" has been lent from a poem written by Frank O'Hara and included in a catalogue published in support of an exhibition staged in Rome 1965.

"In the poem, O'Hara uses descriptions of minerals such as sand and bronze, New World travel, and fragments of prose to assimilate the expressive nature of the works included in the exhibition. In ancient Greek mythology, it was believed that metals came from the sky and were gifts from the gods above," states the gallery in a press statement.

In 1962 Pepper was one of ten sculptors invited to participate in the momentous exhibition *Sculture nella citta* for the Festival of the Two Worlds in Spoleto.

In Pepper's conversation with Judith Olch Richards, as part of her oral history for the Archives of American Art, Pepper said "it was an absolute, seminal period of my life. It formed me. Remember, I was the only woman working in these factories as an artist for Spoleto. This was an extraordinary group of artists. I was getting another education. Because remember, I didn't study sculpture. I didn't study welding."

Her intuitive and fresh take on metal can be seen in this curated selection of work. She bends and splices the hard material as if it were something much more pliable. Through her self-taught, problem solving approach to making the work Pepper invented new forms and textures.

Beverly Pepper was born in Brooklyn in 1922. She has spent most of her adult life working in central Italy. Her works have been exhibited and collected by major museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the White House Sculpture Garden, the Hirshhorn Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Les Jardins du Palais Royal in Paris, the Palazzo degli Uffizi in Florence, and numerous other national museums in Europe and Asia.