

Ellsworth Kelly is an American painter, sculptor, and printmaker, who in the years following his service in World War II, created artwork that shaped a unique style by employing hard-edged and boldly colored shapes, quite distinctive from the mainstream of American abstract art of the 1950s. This exhibition features examples of the works for which Kelly is best known, and demonstrates Kelly's subtle approach to line, color, and form.

Born in Newburgh, New York, Kelly was attending Pratt Institute in Brooklyn when his schooling was cut short by the rumblings of World War II. He entered U.S. military service in 1943, requesting to be assigned to the 603rd Engineers Camouflage Battalion, a tactical deception unit also known as the "Ghost Army." Comprised of artists and designers, the Ghost Army used inflatable tanks, trucks, and other elements of subterfuge to mislead the Axis forces during the last year of World War II. Kelly served with the unit until the end of the European theater of World War II. His exposure to military camouflage became part of his basic art training, instructing him in the use of color, form, shadow, and design, which later became crucial to the development of his own art.

*All the artworks in this exhibition are on loan from The Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.*