

**ROLAND BERNIER** | Artist Statement

February 26, 1932–June 19, 2015

For nearly 50 years, words have been incorporated into my art pieces. There have been periods when other images emerged but words always returned whether by themselves or with images. At times, I use clichés' and combine the words with various images that are amusing. Initially I felt I had to break down the barriers of making sense by just listing words taken at random from the dictionary and putting them on canvas and board sometimes by themselves, at other times with designed or familiar images in which words were covered. The idea of taking the word out of context opened a new visual world for me. I continue to experiment with words, looking for and creating new relationships between the form of the word and a variety of images. People often try to read meanings into the pieces but generally the words are used as an art form or symbol.

To me making art is chancy and uncertain; but these are also essential ingredients for a determined innovative approach to art. This attitude led me to the technique of cutting words out of wood and creating word relief pictures as well as 3-dimensional word sculptures. Some of these pieces are covered in Xerox text or images while others are painted or I allow the texture of the wood to help carry the idea of the piece.

During the times when words have not been part of an art piece, I have used calligraphy of my own design.