

# Jack Lenor Larsen

## PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

- 1927 Born to Norsk-Canadian parents in Seattle, WA
- 1945 Enrolled at school of architecture, University of Washington
- 1946/47 Studied furniture design and began to weave. Moved to Los Angeles to concentrate on fabric
- 1949 Returned to Seattle to study ancient Peruvian fabrics; opened studio
- 1950/51 Cranbrook Academy of Art (Michigan), Master of Fine Arts degree; Opened New York City studio
- 1957/60/64 Reported the Triennale di Milano for Interiors Magazine
- 1958-60 Consultant to the State Department for grass weaving projects in Taiwan and Vietnam; visited Southeast Asia
- 1960-62 Co-Director, Fabric Design Department, Philadelphia College of Art, Pennsylvania
- 1962 Designer and director of traveling exhibition, Fabrics International: Visited West Africa, Morocco, and the Transvaal
- 1964 Design Director and U.S. Commissioner, XIII Triennale di Milano
- 1965 Completed Round House at East Hampton, New York
- 1966-67 Vice President, Architectural League of New York
- 1968-69 Co-curator, "Wall Hangings," The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1974 Designed "Visiona IV" exhibition for Bayer Ag, Frankfurt
- 1975 Artist-in-Residence, Royal College of Art, London
- 1976-81 Chairman, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts; Honorary Chair from 1981.
- 1977 Curator, "Wall Hangings-The New Classicism," The Museum of Modern Art, NY
- 1979-80 Rétrospective, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Palais du Louvre
- 1981 Co-director, "The Art Fabric: Mainstream" traveling exhibition opening at the

San Francisco Museum of Art

1981-89 President, American Craft Council, Emeritus, from 1990

1983-84 Editor, "Design Since 1945," Philadelphia Museum of Art

1986-89 Curator, "Interlacing: The Elemental Fabric" opening at The Textile Museum, Washington, DC

1986-91 Curator, "Splendid Forms" at Bellas Artes Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

1988 Curator, "The Tactile Vessel: New Basket Forms," Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA

1991 Established the LongHouse Foundation, now LongHouse Reserve, East Hampton, NY

2001-02 Retrospective Exhibit, "Jack Lenor Larsen: The Man and the Cloth", Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN. Other venues: American Textile History Museum, Lowell, MA; The Mingei International Museum, San Diego, CA

2004 Traveling exhibition "Jack Lenor Larsen: Creator & Collector" New York, NY, Montreal, Quebec; Palm Springs, CA; Allentown, PA

2012 An exhibition "Jack Lenor Larsen 40 Years", New York School of Interior Design, New York, NY

2016 Book "Learning from LongHouse", by Pointed Leaf Press and a movie LARSENWORLD: Longhouse in East Hampton movie by Checkerboard are released.

2020 In the spring of Larsen Inc. introduces Larsen Performance fabrics designed by Jack Larsen and developed by Sunbrella®

## COMPANY CHRONOLOGY

1951 Opened New York City studio

1952 Commission: draperies for Lever House lobby, America's first major post-war high-rise tower.

1953 Established Jack Lenor Larsen incorporated. Began power weaving "hand-woven" fabrics such as "Granite" using many yarns and random repeat that became a Larsen style and a widespread market influence

1954 Started the Larsen handprint collection and hand-spun and hand-woven upholsteries in Haiti and Morocco

1958 With Win Anderson, initiated Larsen Design Studio

1958 Designed and produced the first fabrics for jet airliners for Pan Am

1959 First printed velvet upholstery fabrics

1961 Designed and produced first stretch upholstery

1963 Opened Jack Lenor Larsen International in Zurich

1965 Designed Fine Arts Collection of towels, sheets, and blankets for J.P. Stevens

1966 Fabric wall panels for the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, Commissioned by Louis Kahn

1969 Designed first fabrics for 747 jets for Pan Am and Braniff

1971 Filene Center act curtain, Wolf Trap Farm. Commissioned by MacFayden & Knowles.

1972 Acquired Thaibok Fabrics Ltd.

1973 Established Larsen Carpet and Larsen Leather

1974 Silk hangings, Sears Bank & Trust, commissioned by Bruce Graham of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (Chicago)

1976 Established Larsen Furniture division

1978 Act curtain, St. Charles Cultural Center, commissioned by Powell/Kleinschmidt

1980 Designed porcelain tableware for Dansk International

1982 Designed upholstery collections for Cassina and Vescom

1985 Designed Terra Nova Collection for Mikasa, Martex, et al.

1992 Carpet, wall and window fabrics, leather upholstery for Trustees Dining Room, Metropolitan Museum of Art

1997 Larsen Inc. merges with Cowtan & Tout, the US Subsidiary of Colefax and Fowler, UK

2020 Larsen Inc. introduces Larsen Performance fabrics designed by Jack Larsen and developed by Sunbrella®

## PUBLICATIONS

- 1967 Elements of Weaving, with Azalea Thorpe, Doubleday & Co., NY
- 1971 The Dyer's Art: Ikat, Batik, Plangi, with Dr. Alfred Buhler and Bronwen and Garrett Solyom, Van Nostrand Reinhold, NY
- 1972 Beyond Craft: The Art Fabric, with Mildred Constantine, Van Nostrand Reinhold, NY
- 1975 Fabric for Interiors, with Jeanne Weeks, Van Nostrand Reinhold, NY
- 1981 The Art Fabric: Mainstream, with Mildred Constantine, Van Nostrand Reinhold, NY
- 1986 Interlacing: The Elemental Fabric, with Betty Freudenheim, Kodansha Int'l. USA, NY
- 1989 Material Wealth: Living with Luxurious Fabrics, Abbeville Press, U.S., Thames and Hudson, UK
- 1989 The Tactile Vessel: New Basket Forms, Erie Art Museum, PA
- 1998 A Weaver's Memoir, Harry N. Abrams, NY
- 2004 Jack Lenor Larsen: Creator & Collector exhibition catalog - By David McFadden, Lotus Stack, Mildred Friedman/Merrell Publishers
- 2010 Jack Lenor Larsen's LongHouse, by Molly Chappellet: Chronicle Books
- 2016 Learning from LongHouse, Pointed Leaf Press

## TRUSTEE AFFILIATIONS

- American Craft Council: Fellow, Trustee, President Emeritus
- American Institute of Architects: Gold Medalist
- American Society of Interior Designers: Associate Member, Honorary Fellow
- Architectural League of New York: Past Vice-President
- Aspen Design Conference: Elliot Noyes Fellow
- Centre International de la Tapisserie Ancienne et Moderne: CITAM Executive Committee
- Cooper-Hewitt Museum: Past Chairman, Decorative Arts Committee
- Contemporary Craft Association: Advisory Board

Craft & Folk-Art Museum: International Advisory Committee  
Cranbrook Academy of Art: MFA; Advisory Council  
DIFFA: National Honorary Board of Trustees  
Fashion Institute: Honorary Ph.D.  
Haystack School of Art: Trustee; Honorary Chairman  
IFDA: Member, Wise Owl Award  
Kendall College of Art & Design: Advisory Council  
Museum of Art and Design (formerly American Craft Museum): Honorary Trustee  
Metropolitan Museum of Art: Life Member; Visiting Committee, 20th Century Art  
Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Montreal: Advisory Council  
National Endowment for the Arts: Design Arts Committee  
New York School of Design: Advisory Board  
Omicron Nu: Honorary Member  
Parsons School of Design: Honorary Ph.D.: Governor  
Pilchuck Glass Center: International Advisory Council  
Rhode Island School of Design: Honorary Ph.D., Advisory Committee  
Royal Society of Art: Fellow; Honorary Royal Designer for Industry (RDI)  
Royal College of Art: Honorary Ph.D.; Visiting Lecturer  
Society of Arts & Crafts: Past Trustee; Advisory Board  
Surface Design: Life Member  
Tama Art University, Japan: Visiting Professor  
The Textile Museum: Trustee Emeritus  
University of Washington: Affiliate Professor; President's Club; Honorary Ph.D.  
World Craft Council: former Chief Delegate; Past President USA

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS WITH LARSEN FABRICS INCLUDE:

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

Victoria & Albert Museum, London

Stedelijk Museum of Art, Amsterdam

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Art Institute of Chicago

Philadelphia Museum of Art

Archives of American Art, Washington, DC

Museum Bellerive, Zurich

Designmuseum, Copenhagen

Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York

Fashion Institute of Technology, New York

Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh

Musée des Arts Decoratifs, Paris/Lausanne/Montreal

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

Minneapolis Museum of Art, Minneapolis

Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore

American Textile History Museum, Lowell, MA

Museum of Arts and Design, New York

SELECTED AWARDS

1964 Gold Medal XIII Triennale di Milano

1968 Gold Medal, American Institute of Architects

1971 Elsie DeWolfe Award, American Institute of Interior Designers

1978 Honorary Fellow ASID; Elliot Noyes Fellow, Aspen International Design Conference; Fellow, American Craft Council

1980 Affiliate Professor, University of Washington

1981 Doctor of Fine Arts - Honoris Causa, Parsons School of Design, New School of Social Research, New York

1982 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence

1983 Honorary RDI (Royal Designer for Industry), Royal Society of Arts, London

1984 Neiman-Marcus Award for Distinguished Service in the Field of Fashion

1985 National Home Furnishings League "Wise Owl" Award

1988 IFDA "Trailblazer" Award

1989 Design & Art Society, Edith Warton Award for Excellence

1990 Interior Product Designers "Fellowship of Excellence" Award

1991 Collab Award for Excellence in Design, Philadelphia Museum of Art

1992 Color Marketing Group, Dimmick Award; Roscoe Award, Interior Design Magazine; Founder's Medal, Cranbrook Academy of Art

1993 Brooklyn Museum Design Award for Lifetime Achievement; Interior Designers for Legislation in New York (IDLNY) "Distinguished Achievement" Award

1994 Interior Design Magazine Roscoe Awards: Product of the Year; Best Residential Woven Fabrics - Fielding'

1995 IIDA APEX Award; Textiles Category - Jacob's Ladder

1996 Good Design Awards; Chicago Athenaeum - Award

1996 ID Magazine; Best Product Award

1996 American Craft Council; Gold Medal Award

1996 Textile Design Institute Medal

1999 World Design Award: Interior Design Magazine Hall of Fame Award

2000 Lifetime Achievement Award, American Crafts Museum

2001 Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, New York School of Interior Design

2003 Aid To Artisans Award For Innovation in Craft

2003 Royal College of Art Honorary Doctorate

2003 Russell Wright Award

2003 Rhode Island School of Design Career Excellence Award

2004 Cranbrook Academy of Art Founders Award

2005 University of Washington Alumnus Award

2005 The Textile Museum - George Hewitt Meyers Award

2009 Smithsonian - Archives of American Art Medal

2012 New York School of Interior Design Lifetime Achievement Award

2015 Cooper Hewitt's National Design Awards, Director's Award