



## The Bodywork Institute

Healing the planet - one body at a time

Orthopedic Manual Therapy  
Peter and Geffen Rothe

For appointments call: 415-668-9558

# G.H. Rothe – Master of the Mezzotint

Peter Rothe

Welcome to my mother's private collection.

Both my parents were artists. My father was born in 1899, my mother, who was 36 years his junior, was his student. Her early work attracted the attention of German museums and collectors. In 1968 she was awarded the prestigious Villa Romana prize. She became famous in New York in the late 1970's as The Master of the Mezzotint.

G.H.Rothe produced over 30000 works of art in her lifetime. The 1986 PrintWorld Directory listed her as more prolific than Picasso. Her work was sold in more than 300 galleries across the USA, Europe and Japan. Her work is in the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts at the Legion of Honor museum.

Her dedication and unparalleled mastery of mezzotint printmaking led to a revival of the art-form, leading many other artists to try their hand at it.

### **Short biography of G.H.Rothe 1935 – 2007**

1956 Art Academy

1966 First individual show

1967 First etchings

1968 Kunsthalle museum exhibition

1968 Villa Romana Prize – one year in Florence Italy

1970 Leaves for South America

1971 Arrives in NYC

1972 First mezzotint

1978 Hammer Gallery exclusive contract

- purchase of Seastone property
- Moves to Carmel

Listed in Who's Who is American Art

1982 Mezzotint, inc founded ( Peter Rothe President )

1983 Publication of Catalogue Raisonne

1986 Documentary film produced

1987 Establishes 3 Galleries in Monterey, Carmel and Carmel Rancho

1999 Sale of Seastone, moves to Geneva, Switzerland

[Link.](#)

## About G.H. ROTHE

### **Mezzotinto**

Making a mezzotint needs the same initial material as the copperplate print or the etching, nevertheless it is produced in a completely contradictable way. The copperplate, the subsequent bearer of the motives, is untreated and smooth for prints, etching and graphic arts. An imprint would leave the paper as white as an unexposed photo. In contrast of this the copperplate of the growing, developing mezzotint is evenly roughened by special tools in a velvety way so that the print of such a plate would result in evenly blackened paper. Accordingly, the motive of the mezzotint grows by the artist's scraping, smoothing, engraving, rocking and deepening the copperplate. This unparalleled technique grants the possibility of sensitively shading the colors from flowing flat bright tones to dark ones as well as precise lines and raising contours. She also went a step further by bringing the traditional black and white technique into the full spectrum of colours.



The plate is coated with colors and a mixture of them by using brushes, tuelles and vigorously and carefully rubbing them, handwiping one color into the other. They are then transferred onto the handmade paper. The plate serves the artist as her canvas, a work lasting for hours and hours to achieve a perfect balance of color and tone, which must occur anew for each printing process. By this, each print of an edition has the originality of a unique one.

With taking the linseed oiled dilution of colors, G.H. Rothe has succeeded in creating an artistic expression which equals that of a painting. Depending on it's size, the completion of such a plate will take weeks and most often months to perfection. The filigree structures on the surface of the relatively soft copperplate permits only a certain number of print proceedings and consequently each edition remains limited to 150-200 prints.



**G.H. Rothe etching in her house in Carmel/California**

In all the works of G.H. Rothe pictorial presentations are thrillingly connected with surrealistic elements which cause the viewer to have an inward dialogue as if looking through a window into mythic spheres. The extensive spectrum of motives result in the artist's idea of putting the transcendental message in the foreground instead of the mere representation of a moment. In spite of her photographic exactness of presentation, the emotion and sympathy of the viewer is even more important to her. She implies moments of aesthetic awareness making not only their beauty but their transitoriness clear also. Life and death - these two poles can often be experienced in a stirring way. G.H. Rothe's devotion to the complicated technique of the mezzotint is simultaneously the gist and message of her view on life. In addition to her oil paintings and graffiti's, her mezzotints with their technical absolute and actual impressionism are at the same time in the tradition of the German romanticism and the French realism.



[Link.](#)

G.H ROTHE

**3 Original Paintings:**



*Angel's Road*  
1977  
Oil on Canvas  
48 x 36"



*New World*  
Oil and Egg Tempera on Board  
15 x 19"



*Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe*  
1986  
Oil and Egg Tempera on  
Board  
23 x 33

**Limited Edition Print Samples:**



*Conquistador Cielo AP*  
2006  
Limited Edition Print  
Mezzotint  
24 x 36"  
Edition: AP



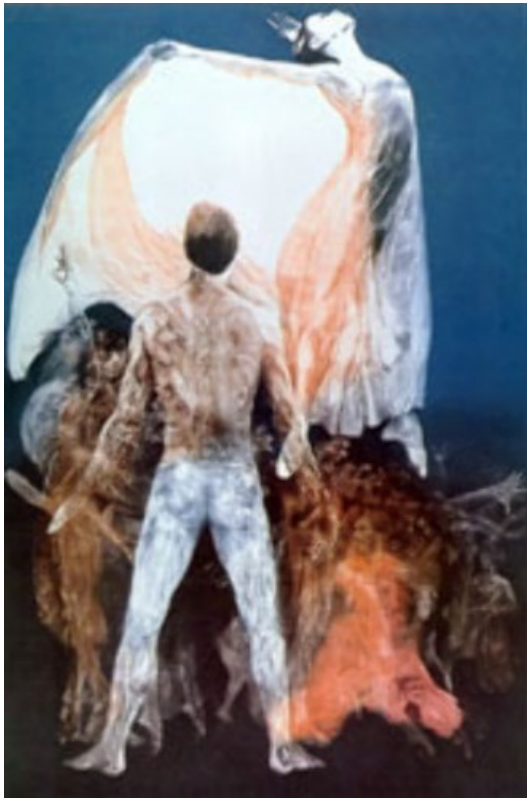
*Ballet in New York*  
Limited Edition Print Mezzotint  
33 x 25 x 2"  
Edition of 105



*Ceriman (Black and White)*  
1980  
Limited Edition Print Etching  
35 x 24"  
Edition of 50



*Arabesque*  
Limited Edition Print Mezzotint  
44 x 32"  
Edition of 99



*Poet*  
Limited Edition Print Mezzotint  
35 x 25"  
Edition of 150

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