

RUTH VOLLMER

Born 1903 in Munich, Germany
Died 1982 in New York, NY

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011-2013 *Ruth Vollmer*, Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
- 2002 *Drawings and Sculpture*, curated by Graham Domke, Inverleith House, Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland (catalogue)
- 1985 *An Exhibition of Spheres*, Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
- 1983 Jack Tilton Gallery, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 1979 *Pencil Drawings*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1978 *Drawings*, Adler Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1976 Neuberger Museum of Art, State University of New York, Purchase, NY (catalogue)
- 1974 *Sculpture and Painting, 1962-1974*, curated by Peg Weiss, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY (catalogue)
- 1973 *Sculpture and Drawings*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1971 Drew University, Madison, NJ
- 1970 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1968 *Exploration of the Sphere: Ruth Vollmer, Sculpture*, Betty Parsons Gallery,

New York, NY (catalogue)

- 1966 *Sculpture, Spheres*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1963 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1960 *Sculpture*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *The Searchers*, Philadelphia Art Alliance at University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 *To Begin, Again: A Prehistory of the Wex, 1968-89*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH
- 2021 *Steel, String, Spit Bite: Selections from the LeWitt Collection*, New Britain Museum of Art, New Britain, CT
Empty Legs, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 *The Negative Space*, ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2018 *In Tribute to Jack Tilton: A Selection from 35 Years*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
- 2017 *Delirious: Art at the Limits of Reason*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Vanishing Points, curated by Adrianna Campbell, James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 *BERMAN – TUTTLE – VOLLMER*, Tilton Gallery, New York, NY
- 2014 *I was a double*, Tang Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2012 *Ronald Bladen in Context*, Loretta Howard Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Evergreen*, curated by Graham Domke, Inverleith House, Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2003-2004 *Thinking the Line: Ruth Vollmer and Gego*, curated by Nadja Rottner and Peter Weibel, Ursula Blickle Stiftung, Kraichtal, Germany; traveled to Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany; Neue Galerie Graz, Austria; Miami Art Central, Miami, FL (catalogue)
- 2003 *Unexpected Dimensions: Works from the LeWitt Collection*, curated by Janet Passehl, Davison Art Center, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

- 2002 *Works by 29 Artists from Moderna Museet's Permanent Collection*, curated by David Neuman and Richard Julin, Magasin 3 Museum and Foundation for Contemporary Art, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1991-1992 *Stubborn Painting: Now and Then*, curated by Ruth Kaufmann and Mike Metz, Max Protech Gallery, New York, NY
- 1987 *Grace is the Better Part of Valour*, curated by Beth Biegler and Andrea Rosen, Sharpe Gallery, New York, NY
- 1986 *Natural Forms and Forces: Abstract Images in American Sculpture – Precedents*, Bakalar Sculpture Gallery, List Visual Arts Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA (catalogue)
- 1984 *Flypunkter/Vanishing Points*, curated by Olle Granath Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden (catalogue)
- 1979-1980 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1979 *New York: Last Ten Years*, curated by Betty Parsons for the Parsons School of Design, Otis Institute, Los Angeles, CA
The Language of Abstraction As Presented By The American Abstract Artists: Works from the Fifties, Sixties, 1970's, Betty Parsons Gallery and Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 1978 *Objects!*, curated by Nicolas Calas, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, NY
Art of the Space Era: An Exhibition Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of America's First Satellite, Explorer I, curated by Carolyn H. Wood, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL (catalogue)
Indoor-Outdoor Sculpture Show, P.S. 1, Queens, New York
- 1977 *Recent Acquisitions*, The Ohio State University Gallery of Fine Art, Sullivant Gallery, Columbus, OH
Ruth Vollmer/Jeanne Miles, Parsons-Dreyfuss Gallery, New York, NY
Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1975-1976 *Painting, Drawing, and Sculpture of the 60's and 70's from the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection*, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA; traveled to The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH (catalogue)
- 1975 *2 by 34*, Parsons-Truman Gallery, New York, NY
C.W. Post Center Art Faculty Invitational Exhibition of Painting, Sculpture

- and Graphics*, Post Center Art Gallery, School of the Arts, Long Island University, Greenvale, NY
Two by Twenty, Oliver Wolcott Library, Litchfield, CT
Calculated Drawings, Parsons-Truman Gallery, New York, NY
American Abstract Artists (40th Annual Exhibition), Westbeth Gallery, New York, NY
Line, Visual Arts Museum, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- 1974-1975 *American Art in Upstate New York*, Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; traveled to Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY; Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, Utica, NY; Albany Institute of History and Art, Albany, NY (catalogue)
- 1974 *Illuminations and Reflections*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue)
Drawings Old – Drawings New, Parsons-Truman Gallery, New York, NY
- 1972 *American Abstract Artists (36th Anniversary Exhibition)*, Library Gallery, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison, NJ; traveled to Contemporary Arts Gallery, Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York, NY
Women Artists, curated by Joyce Robbins, Williams College, Williamstown, MA
 Junior Museum, Louisville, KY
- 1971 *American Abstract Artists (35th Annual Exhibition)*, Contemporary Arts Gallery, Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York, NY
Sculpture in the Park, Festival 70, New Jersey Cultural Council, Van Saun Park, Paramus, NJ (catalogue)
Recent Acquisitions, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
Art and Science, Tel Aviv Museum of Art; traveling exhibition
New American Sculpture, United States Information Agency, New York, NY; traveling exhibition
Projected Art: Artists at Work, Finch College Museum of Art, New York, NY
Sculpture Exhibition, The Members' Gallery/Sculptors Guild, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
- 1970-1971 *Editions in Plastic*, curated by Marchal E. Landgren and Josephine Withers, University of Maryland Art Gallery, Baltimore, MD
Sculpture: The Artists Plus Discoveries, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1970 *Contemporary Women Artists*, The National Arts Club, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
American Abstract Artists (34th Annual Exhibition), Contemporary Arts Gallery, Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York, NY
Sculpture in the Spring, Museum of Art, The University of Connecticut,

- Storrs, CT
Middle Room Exhibition, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
Indoor-Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA
Mr. and Mrs. Hirshhorn Select, Greenwich Museum, Greenwich, CT
- 1969-1970 *The Expressive Line*, Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY
(catalogue)
- 1969 *American Abstract Artists (33rd Annual Exhibition)*, North Carolina Museum
of Art, Raleigh, NC
*Dealer's Choice: An International Loan Exhibition at the Northern Arizona
University Art Gallery During the Fourth Annual Flagstaff Summer Festival
1969*, North Arizona State University, Flagstaff, AZ
Bryant Park Sculpture Exhibition: A Salute to New York City, Bryant Park,
New York, NY
- 1968-1969 *1968 Annual Exhibition: Sculpture*, Whitney Museum of American Art,
New York, NY
- 1968 *Betty Parsons' Private Collection*, Finch College Museum of Art, New
York, NY
Sculpture Now, Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY (catalogue)
American Abstract Artists (32nd Anniversary Exhibition), Riverside
Museum, New York, NY
Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1967 *Abstract American Artists (31st Annual Exhibition)*, Loeb Student Center,
New York University, New York, NY
The Sculptors Guild: Thirtieth Anniversary Exhibition, Lever House, New
York, NY; traveled to Lamont Gallery, Exeter, NH (catalogue)
- 1966 *161st Annual Exhibition*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia,
PA
Sound Exhibit, curated by Hermine Benheim, Contemporary Arts Gallery,
Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York, NY
Two-Person Show with Leo Rabkin, Drew University, Madison, NJ
Art Auction, New York Society for Ethical Culture and the Ethical-Fieldston
Alumni Association, New York, NY
Recent Acquisitions: Paintings and Sculpture, curated by Dorothy C.
Miller, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
West Side Artists, Goddard-Riverside Auditorium, Goddard-Riverside
Community Center, New York, NY
Artists for Core, Grippi & Wadell Gallery, New York, NY
*2ème Salon International de Galeries Pilotes: artistes et découvreurs de
notre temps*, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Palais de Rumine,
Lausanne, Switzerland (catalogue)
'Yesterday and Today' 1936-1966, American Abstract Artists (30th

- Anniversary Exhibition*), Riverside Museum, New York, NY
Constructed Works, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
The Sculptors Guild: Annual Exhibition, Lever House, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 1965 *American Abstract Artists (29th Annual Exhibition)*, Riverside Museum, New York, NY
U.S. Mission to the U.N., New York, NY
- 1964-1965 *Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture, Watercolors and Drawings*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY
- 1964 *For Eyes and Ears*, Cordier & Ekstrom Gallery, New York, NY
American Abstract Artists (28th Annual Exhibition), Contemporary Arts Gallery, Loeb Student Center, New York University, New York, NY
Art Auction, New York Society for Ethical Culture and the Ethical-Fieldston Alumni Association, New York, NY
10th Street Invitational, Aegis Gallery, New York, NY
Sculptors Guild Exhibition, Lever House, New York, NY
- 1963 *Sasson Soffer/Ruth Vollmer*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
Abstract American Artists (27th Annual Exhibition), East Hampton Gallery, East Hampton, NY
Outdoor Sculpture Show, Bundy Art Gallery, Waitsfield, VT
Obelisk Gallery, Boston, MA
Toys by Artists, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
14th Annual New England Exhibition, The Silvermine Guild of Artists, New Canaan, CT
- 1962 *Painting and Sculpture*, Wolfson Studio, Salt Point, NY
- 1961 *Summer Exhibition (14th Annual Creative Arts Program)*, University of Colorado, Boulder, CA (catalogue)
- 1960-1961 *Guest Show*, Betty Parsons Gallery, Section Eleven, New York, NY
- 1959 *Drawings, Gouaches, Sculpture*, Betty Parsons Gallery, Section Eleven, New York, NY
- 1958 U.S. Pavilion, World's Fair, Brussels, Belgium
- 1957-1958 *Children's Holiday Carnival*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 1957 *International Samples Exhibition*, traveled to industrial trade fairs in Milan, Italy and Barcelona, Spain
- 1956 *Annual Sculpture Show*, Village Art Center, New York, NY

- 1948-1949 *Children's Holiday Fair of Modern Art*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; traveling exhibition
- 1947-1948 *World of Illusion: Elements of Stage Design*, curated by George Amberg, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; traveling exhibition
- 1944 *Art in Progress: 15th Anniversary Exhibition*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY (catalogue)

Solo Exhibition Catalogues

Explorations of the Sphere: Ruth Vollmer, Sculpture. Betty Parsons Gallery, 1968.

Ruth Vollmer, 1903-1982, New York: Jack Tilton Gallery, 1983. Texts by Alicia Legg, Richard Francisco, Marianne Hauser, Sol LeWitt, Leo Rabkin, Jack Tilton, Richard Tuttle, et al.

Weiss, Peg, ed. *Ruth Vollmer: Sculpture and Painting, 1962-1974*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Everson Museum of Art, 1974. Texts by Richard Tuttle and Lee Hall.

Weiss, Peg. *Ruth Vollmer*. Purchase, N.Y.: State University of New York, Neuberger Museum of Art, 1976.

Selected Group Exhibition Catalogues

American Abstract Artists. Foreword by Leo Rabkin. Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Museum of Art, 1969.

American Art in Upstate New York: Drawings, Watercolors, and Small Sculpture from Public Collections in Albany, Buffalo, Ithaca, Syracuse and Utica. Introduction by June A. Wood and Douglas G. Schultz. Buffalo, N.Y.: Fine Arts Academy, 1974.

Art in Progress: A Survey Prepared for the 15th Anniversary of the Museum of Modern Art. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1944. Texts by James Thrall Soby, Alfred H. Barr Jr., Nancy Newhall, Iris Barry, Elizabeth Mock, Monroe Wheeler, et al. Stage proscenium and wire figures designed and executed by Ruth Vollmer displaying dance costumes by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dali, Fernand Léger, Xanti Schawinsky, and Kurt Seligman; see p. 233.

Editions in Plastic. Baltimore: University of Maryland Art Gallery, University Press, College Park, 1970. Brochured checklist.

The Expressive Line. Huntington, N.Y.: Heckscher Museum, 1969. Cover illus. by Vollmer.

Olle, Granath, ed. *Flypunkter/Vanishing Points*. Stockholm: Moderna Museet, 1984. Incl. reprints of B.H. Friedman, "The Quiet World of Ruth Vollmer"; Ruth Vollmer, "Fragments Towards the Sphere"; Sol LeWitt, "Ruth Vollmer: Mathematical Forms"; and Steingrim Larsen, "Ruth Vollmer."

Goossen, Eugene C., and Elayne H. Varian. *Betty Parsons' Private Collection*, New York: Finch College Museum of Art, 1968.

Illuminations and Reflections. New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 1974. Illus. only.

The Language of Abstraction. New York: American Abstract Artists, 1979. Text by Susan Carol Larsen.

Natural Forms and Forces: Abstract Images in American Sculpture. Cambridge, M.A.: MIT Committee on the Visual Arts, 1986. Texts by Douglas Dreishpoon and Katy Kline.

Objects! Foreword by Nicolas Calas and Elena Calas. New York: Marian Goodman Gallery, 1978.

Painting, Drawing, and Sculpture of the 60's and 70's from the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection. Foreword by Suzanne Delehanty. Philadelphia: Institute of Contemporary Art, 1975.

Sculpture 1966. New York: The Sculptors Guild, 1966.

Sculpture Now. Foreword by Eva Ingersoll Gatling. Huntington, N.Y.: Heckscher Museum of Art, 1968, 255.

The Sculptors Guild: Thirtieth Anniversary Exhibition. New York: The Sculptors Guild, 1967. Illus. only.

Wood, Carolyne H. *Art of the Space Era: An Exhibition Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of America's First Satellite, Explorer I*. Hunstville, A.L.: Hunstville Museum of Art, 1978. Incl. a biography of Ruth Vollmer and a reprint of Peter Frank, "Syracuse: Ruth Vollmer at the Everson Museum."

Selected Publications

Ashton, Dore. *Modern American Sculpture*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1967. Vollmer ref., p. 40; pl XLV: Vollmer, *Sphere Minus C* (1965), *Wedding of Sphere with Cube, Series I* (1964), and *Complexity* (1965).

Bunch, Clarence. *Acrylic for Sculpture and Design*. New York: Van Nostrand, 1972. Illus. with works by Vollmer.

Calas, Nicolas. *Icons and Images of the Sixties*. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1971. Chapter 18: "Systems Elementary and Complex" (LeWitt, De Maria, Andre, Vollmer, Mallery), ppl 271-79; Vollmer *Steiner Surface* (1970), illus. p. 277.

Crowdis, David G., and Brandon W. Wheeler. *Introduction to Mathematical Ideas*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1969. Cover: Vollmer, *Reciprocals* (1968); photograph by Hermann Landshoff.

Gurin, Ruth. *American Abstract Artists, 1936-1966*. New York: The Ram Press, 1966. Pl. 25: Vollmer, *Trimer* (1965).

Hall, Lee. *Betty Parsons: Artist, Dealer, Collector*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1991. Vollmer ref. pp. 13, 123, 129, 132, 135-36, 167; Vollmer, *Trigonal Tetrahedron* (1970), illus. p. 135.

Lippard, Lucy R. *Eva Hesse*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1976. Vollmer ref. pp. 68, 72, 100, 105, 114, 120, 127, 154, 199, 203, 204; fig. 256: Vollmer, *Trigonal Volume* (bronze, 1966), formerly collection of Eva Hesse (n. 20).

Rubinstein, Charlotte Streifer. *American Women Artists: From Early Indian Times to the Present*. Boston: G.K. Hall & Co and Avon Books, 1982. Summary of Vollmer's life as an artist in "The Sixties: Pop Art and Hard Edge," pp. 359-61; figs. 8-13: Vollmer, *The Shell* (1973), photographed by Hermann Landshoff.

Rubinstein, Charlotte Streifer. *American Women Sculptors: A History of Women Working in Three Dimensions*. Boston: G.K. Hall and Avon Books, 1990. Summary of Vollmer's life as an artist in Chapter 7, "High Tech and Hard Edge: The Sixties," p. 391; Vollmer, *Steiner Surface* (1970), illus. p. 392.

Bibliography

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Anderson, Laurie. [Review]. "Vollmer, Ruth [Parsons]." *ARTnews* (New York) 72 (May 1973): 91-92.

Ashton, Dore. [Review]. "Paintings and Sculpture Are Featured at Betty Parsons' Section Eleven." *The New York Times*, February 26, 1959: 28.

Benedick, M. [Review]. [Parsons]. *Art International* (Lugano) 10, no. 4 (April 1966): 84.

Burckhardt, Edith. [Review]. "Ruth Vollmer [Parsons, Section Eleven]." *ARTnews* (New York) 59, no. 4 (summer 1960): 22.

Butterfield, Emily. "New York Sculptor: Math Becomes Art Form [Neuberger]." *Syracuse Herald Journal* (Syracuse, N.Y.), November 10, 1977: n.p.

Campbell, Lawrence. [Review]. "Ruth Vollmer [Parsons]." *ARTnews* (New York) 69, no. 8 (December 1970): 63.

Campbell, Lawrence. [Review]. "Ruth Vollmer [Parsons]." *ARTnews* (New York) 67, no. 9 (January) 1969: 64.

Criss-Cross Art Communications (Boulder, CO), nos. 7-9 (1979): 20-27. Repr. Seven of Vollmer's untitled drawings, 1977-78.

Dienst, Rolf-Gunter. "Ruth Vollmers Magie der Einfachheit." *Das Kunstwerk* (Stuttgart) 22, nos. 5-6 (February/March 1969): 36-40.

Domingo, Willis. [Review]. [Parsons]. *Arts Magazine* (New York) 45, no. 2 (November 1970): 64.

Frank, Peter. [Review]. "New York Art Notes [Parsons]." *The Columbia Owl* (New York), December 4, 1968: 6.

Faunce, Sarah C. [Review]. "Ruth Vollmer [Parsons]." *ARTnews* (New York) 62, no. 1 (March 1963): 15.

Friedman, Bernard H. [Review]. "The Quiet World of Ruth Vollmer [Parsons]." *Art International* (Lugano) 9, no. 2 (March 1965): 26-28.

Genauer, Emily. [Review]. "Kemeny Sculpture Highlights Shows [Parsons, Section Eleven]." *New York Herald Tribune*, May 29, 1960: n.p.

Genauer, Emily. [Review]. "Sculpture, Spheres by Ruth Vollmer [Parsons]." *New York Herald Tribune*, January 29, 1966: 9.

Gillespie, Neil. [Review]. "A Quiet World: Ruth Vollmer: Drawings and Sculptures [Inverleith]." *Architects' Journal* (London) 215, no. 14 (April 11, 2002): 48.

Glueck, Grace. [Review]. "Art: Haunting Moods of Edwin Dickinson [Tilton]." *The New York Times*, November 11, 1983: C26.

Kramer, Hilton. [Review]. [Parsons]. *The New York Times*, February 5, 1966: 24.

Kramer, Hilton. [Review]. "Retrospective on Sculpture of Ruth Vollmer [Neuberger]." *The New York Times*, February 28, 1976: 8.

Larsen, Susan C. [Review]. "Ruth Vollmer – Drawing As Thinking [Adler]." *Artweek* (Castro Valley, CA), October 7, 1978: 1, 20.

Larsen, Susan C. [Review]. "Intimate Mathematics [Adler]." *ARTnews* (New York) 77, no. 10 (December 1978): 113-17.

LeWitt, Sol. "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art." *Artforum* (New York) 5, no. 10 (June 1967): 79-83.

LeWitt, Sol. "Ruth Vollmer: Mathematical Forms." *Studio International* (London) 180, no. 928 (December 1970): 256-57.

Mellow, J.R. [Review]. "New York Letter [Parsons]." *Art International* (Lugano) 13, no. 1 (January 1969): 54.

Moira, Jeffrey. [Review] "A Bubble That Won't Burst [Inverleith]." *The Herald* (Glasgow), March 29, 2002, Arts Features sect.: 17-18.

Muchnic, Suzanne. [Review]. "La Cienaga Area [Adler]." *Los Angeles Times*, September 22, 1978: 8.

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[Obituary]. *Art in America* (New York) 70, no. 3 (March 1982): 208.

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[Review]. "Cordier & Eckstrom Gallery: For Eyes and for Ears." *Village Voice* (New York), January 9, 1964: 9, 16.

[Review]. "Art: Two Exhibitions Go in Search of the Future [Eckstrom]." *The New York Times*, January 17, 1964: 40.

[Review]. [Parsons]. *Arts Magazine* (New York) 43, no. 3 (December 1968/January 1969): 61.

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Robert Gordon, Bykert Gallery Downtown." *Artforum* (New York) 13, no. 4 (December 1974): 71-72.

Smithson, Robert. "Quasi-Infinities and the Waning of Space." *Arts Magazine* (New York) 41, no. 1 (November 1966): 28-31.

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Tillim, Sidney. [Review]. "Ruth Vollmer [Parsons]." *Arts Magazine* (New York) 37, no. 7 (April 1963): 61.

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Westfall, Stephen. "Preserving the Mystery: The Art of Ruth Vollmer." *Arts Magazine* (New York) 58, no. 6 (February 1984): 74-76.