



## ROBERT COTTINGHAM

Robert Cottingham is an American painter best known for his Photorealist depictions of cropped commercial signage. Born on September 26, 1935 in Brooklyn, NY, Cottingham studied at Pratt Institute, where he received his BFA in 1963 before starting a five-year career in commercial advertising. Upon moving to Los Angeles Cottingham seriously committed himself to his own painting practice, which eventually subsumed his advertising career by 1968 as the artist rose to prominence along with the Photorealist movement. Notably—though Cottingham is considered among the 13 most prominent Photorealists of the latter half of the 20th century—he disavowed his relationship to the movement. Instead, he views his own work as part of the lineage of vernacular Americana painters, including the likes of [Stuart Davis](#) and [Edward Hopper](#). His work can be found among the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C., among others.

Robert Cottingham was born in Brooklyn, New York and received his BFA degree from the Pratt Institute, also in Brooklyn. Later, he studied art at Arts Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA. Although he is known for his photo-realistic depictions of signs, storefront marquees, railroad boxcars and letter forms, Robert Cottingham does not consider himself a photorealist artist. His imagery, while derived from the photographs he takes, expands on the photographic image, it does not replicate it. Works by Robert Cottingham are in the collections of every important museum in America and Europe including the Art Institute of Chicago; the Boymans-von Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands; the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA; the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art, New York; the Hamburg Museum, Germany; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Academy of Design, New York; the National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC; the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; the Tate Gallery, London, England; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. A retrospective of Robert Cottingham's print work was organized and exhibited by the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC in 1998.