

# Who Are the Most Underrated and Overrated Artists?

Lyonel Feininger needs looking at, Georgia O'Keeffe we know too well, and Andy Warhol seems to be both too much and too little liked. These are some of the responses to *ARTnews'* occasional survey of critics, curators, art historians, and writers

BY PAUL GARDNER

**W**ho is overrated and who is underrated in art? When *ARTnews* last raised the question seven years ago, several names came up as being worthy of greater attention. A number of these artists then received some of the acclaim their supporters felt had been missing from their careers. In 1987 Robert Buck, the director of the Brooklyn Museum, observed that Louise Bourgeois had "received praise, but not enough—yet." Last summer she represented the United States at the Venice Biennale, and this year she will have a retrospective of her work from 1982 to '92 at the Brooklyn Museum. This exhibition will

also travel to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In our previous survey, critic Gary Indiana of *The Village Voice* wondered why Robert Mapplethorpe had never been given a major museum retrospective. That situation changed shortly thereafter. Rebecca Horn, Vito Acconci, and Lucian Freud have also finally received the kudos that survey participants felt were their due. Of course, contemporary artists aren't the only ones finding a new place in the sun. Our current survey includes some art-historical reconsiderations as well, with praise for Jacopo Bassano and a second look at Bartolomé Murillo.

## Nan Rosenthal

Consultant, 20th-century art,  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

**R**ichard Hamilton is an extraordinary artist who has not received the same recognition as other artists of his generation. His collage *Just What Is It that Makes Today's Homes so Different, so Appealing?* (1956) is quite a piece of perception and observation. His work is amusing and contains social satire. A lot of young artists are politically motivated, but they seem to preach to the converted. Hamilton's work is more powerful.

Overrated? Someone who comes to mind is Fernando Botero. I don't feel he's significant in mainstream modernism. Maybe he's just overexposed. We've seen a lot of Botero over a long period. Conceptually, he is one-dimensional.

I'd like to add that there are many midcareer artists, such as Arthur Cohen, Howard Buchwald, and Martha Keller, who are making terrific work, but we just do not hear about them—and we should.