

'The Art of Silence'

Bernard Schottlander, 1924 – 1999



Bernard Schottlander (1924-1999) was born in Germany. He fled from Nazi Germany to England in 1939. His obituary from the Independent states, "Early in 1939, his parents packed their belongings on a train for Hamburg, planning to escape to England. Bernard made the voyage, but the parents and his only brother went off to Brussels to see an exhibition, then disappeared. The Red Cross traced them to Switzerland, where they spent the war. Alone, Bernard was adopted by a refugee organisation in Northumberland, which farmed him out to two elderly ladies."

In England, he worked in structural engineering as a welder during the war, and took evening classes in sculpture at Leeds College of Art. He then went on to study Industrial Design at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London.

Schottlander exhibition at the University of Brighton, 2008. Photograph: Barbara Taylor, courtesy of the University of Brighton Design Archives



After launching his own business, Schottlander became well known as a designer of a new style of lighting, promoted by The Council of Industrial Design. His lighting and furniture followed simple striking forms, often in primary colours, in a style that is still regarded as modern today.

Bernard made his first abstract sculpture in the early 1960s. In 1963 he made the decision to become a full-time sculptor, followed by his first solo show at the Architectural Association in 1964.