



**MANUEL NERI (b. 1930)****Untitled**

Signed and stamped base, "MANUEL NERI"

painted bronze

67 x 24 x 26 in.

170.18 x 65.41 x 60.96 cm

2/4

1982

38986

**PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection, Washington

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**EXHIBITION:**

West Palm Beach, Florida, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, *Figurative Masters of the Americas*, January 4 – February 12, 2023

Manuel Neri was a central figure in the Bay Area Figurative Movement in the 1960s. Instead of abstract forms, the group emphasized emotion through the power of the human form. The present work, "Untitled" (1982), explores the female form on a life-sized scale. Neri preferred to work with just one model throughout his 60-year career, Maria Julia Klimenko. The absence of a face in many of the sculptures adds an element of mystery and ambiguity. The focus of the composition in "Untitled" is the structure and form of the figure. Manuel Neri is represented in numerous museum collections worldwide, including the Addison Gallery/Phillips Academy; Anderson Collection at Stanford University; Art Institute of Chicago; Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University; Cincinnati Art Museum; Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; Denver Art Museum, the El Paso Museum of Art, Texas; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; Harvard University Art Museums; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Honolulu Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

Manuel Neri is an American artist best known for his uniquely painterly figurative sculpture. A member of the "second generation" of Bay Area Figurative Movement, Neri was a prominent figure in the San Francisco art scene for many years. Born on April 12, 1930 in Sanger, CA, he attended the California School of Fine Arts where he studied under Richard Diebenkorn and Elmer Nelson Bischoff. Initially working with junk materials such as wire and cardboard, Neri moved towards figurative sculpture crafted mainly in plaster. His primary subjects are life-sized women applied with brightly-colored paint, often texturing the surfaces of his sculptures with scratches and gouges. He went on to marry another member of the second generation of the Bay Area Figurative Movement, the painter Joan Brown. Neri was honored by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1984, and was the recipient of a lifetime achievement award from the International Sculpture Center in 2006.

(artnet.com)

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