



**BIO5**<sup>™</sup>  
Institute

BIO5 INSTITUTE PRESENTS THE

# MARVIN LOWE

*Art Collection*



Marvin Lowe

## Art Collection

On display in Thomas W. Keating Bioresearch Building  
and Bioscience Research Laboratories

The BIO5 Institute at the University of Arizona brings together world-class researchers and innovators from five core disciplines — agriculture, engineering, medicine, pharmacy and science.

By uniting these fields, BIO5 is uniquely positioned to develop bold solutions to the world's pressing biology-based challenges. We connect and mobilize a network of hundreds of renowned researchers, from plant, animal and human bioscientists to engineers, physicians and computational experts. Our faculty spans across 19 colleges and 84 departments. Together, we develop creative solutions for complex challenges and problems facing Arizona and beyond.





## MESSAGE FROM MELISSA LOWE AND JORY HANCOCK

Included in this printed piece is a brief chronicle of Marvin Lowe's life as a visual artist, science scholar, and jazz musician. That story is told in two sections - His Legacy and His Life. Together, we celebrate with the BIO5 Institute a newly acquired collection of art by Marvin Lowe, Melissa's father. It's important to us that we share with you our rationale and motivation for donating this specific group of works chosen, especially for the BIO5 Institute research buildings. Marvin Lowe's passion for marrying art with science and music will be apparent when you view his work, and this walking tour will provide discoveries about how and why his fascination with science so often dominated the artist's 55-year career. He once wrote:



Jory Hancock and Melissa Lowe

**Many of my pieces give a visual representation of the physical forces that we know exist in the universe. Energetic situations that I try to create serve a metaphoric purpose related to these forces.**



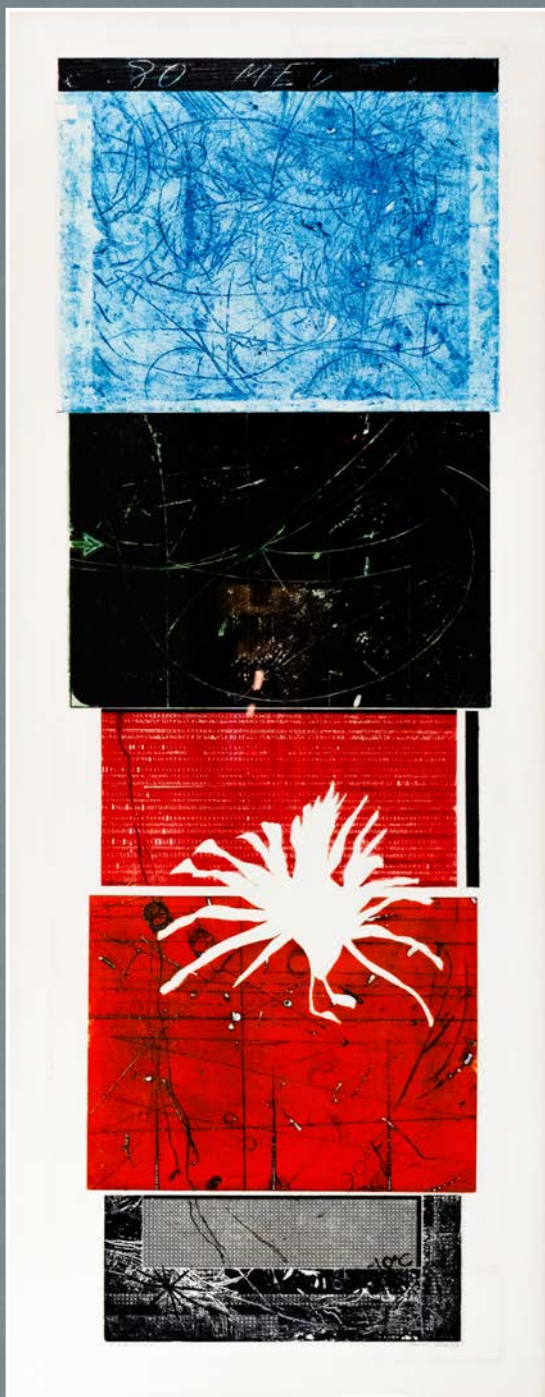
Melissa Lowe and Marvin Lowe

The U of A campus is home to phenomenal scientific research and fresh discoveries. The BIO5 Institute houses people whose minds and hearts are stirred by the same creativity as any artist, and it's an honor to share that passion with them through the Marvin Lowe Art Collection. Finally, we hope that this "gallery" of textures, patterns, colors, and forms will be enjoyed by the larger campus community and beyond well into the future.

## Marvin Lowe, 1922-2010

**HIS LEGACY** | Lowe's work is included in over 200 national, international, and invitational exhibitions and 80 private, public, university, and corporate collections worldwide. These include the John F. Kennedy family's private collection, the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, the Brooklyn Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the British Museum in London. He had 50 one-person exhibitions and over 30 awards, most notably those from the Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.





*Weather Report*  
Five Intaglio Prints, 1984 (ON LOAN)



**HIS WORK** | Graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School, inspired by his love of jazz and science, Lowe's first career was as a celebrated tenor saxophone player, touring with renowned jazz bands nationwide. During World War II, aboard the battleship USS Arkansas, he was able to further his music-performing career with Artie Shaw's Navy Band. After the war, he obtained B.A. degrees from both Juilliard and Brooklyn College. Acting upon advice from his NY friend then, the iconic figure Larry Rivers, Lowe's career path took a radical shift from music to visual art. He pursued his M.F.A. in intaglio printmaking at the University of Iowa under the mentorship of world-renowned artist Mauricio Lasansky. To make ends meet, he worked nights playing jazz club dates and as an assistant in the Physics Department under James Van Allen, recording data the scientist collected on the radiation belts. At that point, Lowe began to define his career as a visual artist, proclaiming, "Art is a record of the energy the artist puts into it, energy in form."



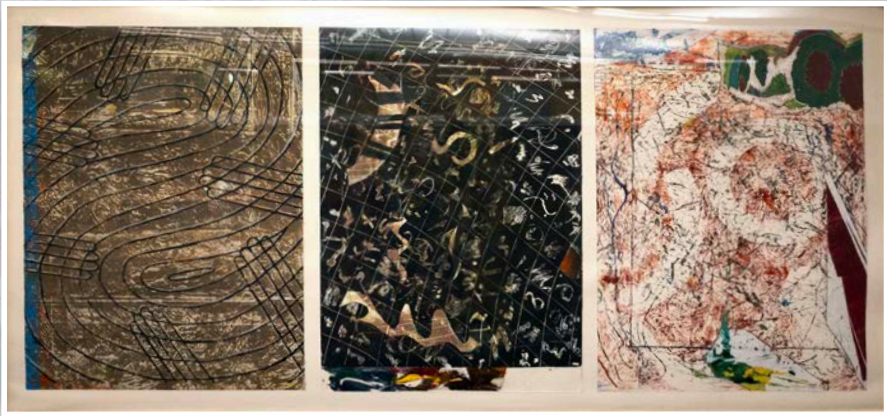
*Religious Figure*, Acrylic Collage Monotype, 1993

Lowe enjoyed a four-decade teaching career in higher education, most notably at Indiana University, where the printmaking program gained national recognition. In the 1990s, he became fascinated with astral and nuclear physics, which influenced his art. He explored monotypes, combining intaglio and relief processes with oil, acrylic, and hand-drawn details. His work from this period often incorporated mathematical formulas, scientific symbols, and diagrams, visually representing universal physical forces. “I relish these incongruities!” he said. The provocative subject matter is always present in Lowe’s work, meant to inspire viewers to ponder, analyze, and “dream themselves.”



Marvin Lowe in his studio

After retiring to Tucson, Lowe’s creativity flourished, as did his passion for making art. His work was featured in exhibits at the Tucson Museum of Art, PCC Louis Carlos Bernal Gallery, and The Drawing Studio’s “Midcentury Masters of American Printmaking” exhibit. Several of his pieces are on display in the University of Arizona Memorial Student Union, and now, the BIO5 Institute research buildings are home to an additional 20 works.



*Europa, Ganymede + IO, Intaglio Triptych, 1985*



*Tiny Pale Blue Dot*  
Acrylic Print Media Collage, 1990





*Coral Series*  
Acrylic Print Media Collage, 1991



*Sacrifice Series Beta*, Acrylic Collage, 1991

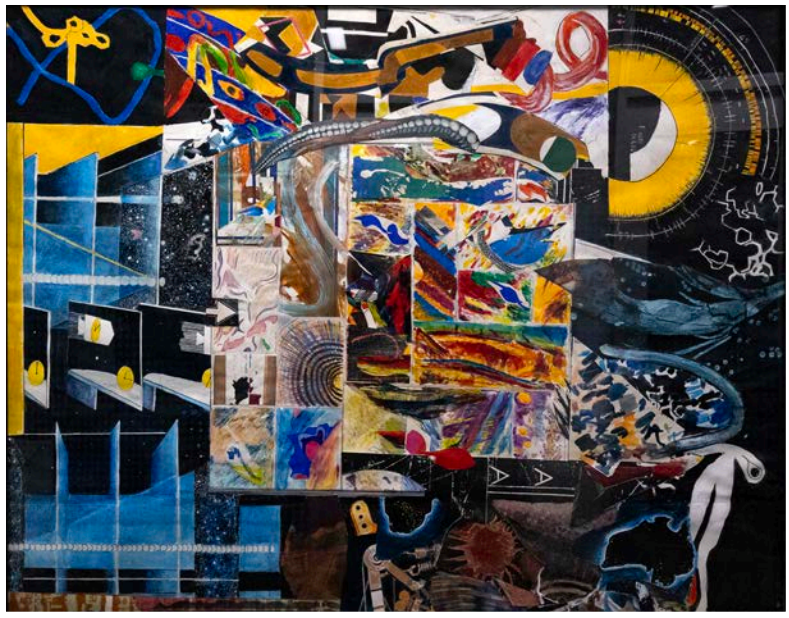


*Ozone Breach II*, Acrylic on Canvas, 1987



*Passage to India*, Acrylic Collage Monotype, 1994





*Orion Arm II*, Mixed Media, 1998



*The Bridge*, Black & White Intaglio Print, 1958





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