



Sister Corita

A biography written by Phoebe Squire

Corita Kent's Life

Frances Elizabeth Kent was born in Iowa, 1918. When she entered the order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1936 at the age of 18, to become a nun, she changed her name to Sister Mary Corita. From 1936 to 1968 Sister Corita lived as well as worked in the Immaculate Heart Community. Sister Corita taught in the Immaculate Heart College where she was the head of its art department. By the early 1950s she had such a unique and well known style of art that religious people from all over the country were sent to be educated at the college. During that decade she toured widely, demonstrating her artistic abilities. Sister Corita left the order in 1968. She was diagnosed with cancer in 1974 and died 12 years later in 1986 at the age of sixty seven.

Sister Corita's Art

Sister Corita was an American Catholic nun and educator who lived and worked in Los Angeles and Boston. But what she is known for is her colourful pop art and screen prints. Because not only was she a nun and educator she was a well known artist. She loved twisted sayings and colourful lettering and she also included things she saw in her surroundings, in her artwork. She was passionate about her art and usually added a passage from the bible to support catholicism and god as she was a nun. Unfortunately in 1968 Sister Corita's life as a nun came to a stop. During the Vietnamese War, tensions between the order and church leadership grew high and Sister Corita, like many other nuns, left the order and started a new life as Corita Kent although she is still known as Sister Corita today.

Sister Corita moved to Boston where she devoted her life to art. In 1974 she was diagnosed with cancer. After this she kept her artwork to watercolours and only did screenprints if it was to prove something or make a point.

Today Sister Corita is known for her pop art and screenprints that are displayed in art galleries.