

## **Robert Lee Morris**

A self taught jewelry artisan, Robert Lee Morris was discovered at the Putney School craft fair in 1972 when an assistant to Joan Sonnabend bought one of his necklaces and wore it to work. Joan and her business partner Phyllis Rosen loved the necklace, and after viewing the collection in Boston, gave him exclusive representation in their new artist jewelry gallery called Sculpture to Wear, located in the Plaza Hotel in New York City, at the time owned by Roger and Joan Sonnabend. The collection was a success and his famous oversized brass bubble collar was featured on the cover of *Vogue*.

In 1977 the Plaza was sold and Robert Lee Morris opened his own gallery called ARTWEAR, located in SOHO which quickly became an international hub for wealthy clients, celebrities and fashion editors to discover exciting contemporary jewelry. For twenty years Robert Lee Morris represented over 400 jewelry artists and hosted over 50 exhibitions.

In 2011 the Robert Lee Morris company was sold to Miriam Haskell and today can be found in specialty stores such as Bergdorf Goodman and Henri Bendel, the mid market line called RLM Soho is sold at Macy's, Lord & Taylor and Dilliards.

His numerous awards include the COTY for his jewelry collection for Calvin Klein in 1981, the CFDA award for his work for Donna Karan and ARTWEAR in 1985, the DeBeers Diamonds Today award in 1999 and a CFDA Geoffrey Beene Lifetime Achievement award in 2007.