

## PERSON PLACE THING EPISODE 72: JERRY SALTZ AND ROBERTA SMITH

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A few weeks ago a conversation was held for the 92Y podcast [Person, Place, Thing](#) hosted by Randy Cohen, featuring art critics extraordinaire (and real life couple) Jerry Saltz of New York Magazine and Roberta Smith, senior critic at the New York Times. Speaking to a full house in the spacious gallery and cast room at the [New York Academy of Art](#) on Franklin street the dynamic duo followed the format of the episodic show, presented with queries on you guessed it their favorite or most influential, person, place, and thing. Answering the questions in unison, the **person** they chose was the late artist, Donald Judd. From the discussion, Roberta Smith states,

*Minimalism is an idea. It's catchy, it's all about clean lines and it's simple. It [consists of] specific objects that didn't have a handle.*

Jerry Saltz follows, finishing her thought,

*And I think that Judd codified minimalism. There are Minimalists but I don't think there would be Minimalism without him.*

Proceeding with the intention of the conversation, the next on the couple's list is **place** and they chose the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Soon after, following up on a segment on the different types of criticism, including film, sports, and books. Smith states,

*Unlike the games at the bottom of which you know who wins and who loses, there isn't any right or wrong in art. The whole thing is an argument, every artwork is an argument, every review in an argument, every opinion expressed in a bar after the gallery has closed is an argument and all we are doing, the artists, the critics, the curators are trying to get you to see it our way.*

Moving right along, Cohen explains how Saltz and Smith do not collect artwork or purchase due to conflict of interest. However, they do have the desire to live with art and often acquire works at thrift stores and ideally around \$10.00. Their **thing**, is a painting that they refer to as their [\*Marsden Hartley\*](#), a somewhat flat, naïve painting on board made with warm earthen tones, mountains in the background and tree trunks in the foreground.



The podcast is available by clicking the link above and the evening was organized in part by Sharon Loudon, artist and author of [Living and Sustaining a Creative Life: Essays by 40 Working Artists](#) (Intellect Ltd, October 2013).

More soon!

xo



Jerry Saltz and ETTD Editor Katy Diamond Hamer, Photograph by Sharon Loudon for Instagram, 2014