

RICHARD GRAY GALLERY

875 North Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611 Tel. 312/642/8877 Fax 312/642/8488
1018 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10075 Tel. 212/472/8787 Fax 212/472/2552

LEON POLK SMITH

Born in Chickasha, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), 1906. Died in New York City in 1996.

EDUCATION

1934 Oklahoma State College, BA, English
1938 Teacher's College, Columbia University, MA, Art and Educational Psychology

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2015 *Leon Polk Smith: Paintings and Collages from the 1960s*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York

2014 *Linear Curves: Leon Polk Smith, Works from the 1960s*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, Los Angeles, California

2013 - 2014 *Leon Polk Smith: Space Considered*, Valerie Carberry Gallery, Chicago, Illinois [cat.]
Leon Polk Smith Cherokee/Chickasaw/Choctaw, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York

2011 *Leon Polk Smith: 50 Years of Separation*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
Leon Polk Smith: The Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas

2009 *A Constellation with Works on Paper*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York

2008 *Torn Paper Drawings 1956-1964*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York

2007 *Leon Polk Smith: The Constellation Paintings*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, Los Angeles, California

2006 *Leon Polk Smith: American Original*, Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, The University of Oklahoma [cat.]
Leon Polk Smith: Invention: A Centennial Celebration of his Oeuvre, Jason McCoy Gallery, New York, New York
10 Paintings, 1945-50, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York

2005 *Forms and Functions in the 1950s*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York; traveled to Wright,

Chicago, Illinois (2005)

- 2002 *Leon Polk Smith: Baseballs, Basketballs and Tennis, c. 1955*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
- 2001 *Leon Polk Smith in Arithmeum*, Arithmeum in collaboration with the Forschungsinstitut für discrete Mathematik, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany
- 2000 *Cattlebrands and Columns and Columns from the 1940s*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
- 1999 *Leon Polk Smith: Antigravity*, Galerie Hoffmann, Friedberg, Germany
- 1996 – 1997 *Paintings of the Nineties*, Jason McCoy Inc., New York, New York
- 1995 *Leon Polk Smith: American Painter*, Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York, New York
- 1994 Galerie Hoffmann, Friedberg, Germany
ACA Galleries, New York, New York
- 1992 Iynedjian Art Galerie, Lausanne, Switzerland
Galerie Istvan Schlegl, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1991 Myers-Bloom Gallery, Santa Monica, California
- 1989 *Leon Polk Smith*, Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France; traveled to Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany (1989) [cat.]
- 1987 Ruth Siegel Gallery, New York, New York
Burnett Miller Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Galerie Hoffmann, Friedberg, West Germany
DiLaurenti Gallery, New York, New York
Butler Museum of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio
- 1986 The Brouhaha, Providence, Rhode Island
DiLaurenti Gallery, New York, New York
- 1984 *Leon Polk Smith – Collagen 1981-1983*, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
Leon Polk Smith: Constellations 1967-1973, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
- 1983 Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1982 *Leon Polk Smith: Paintings 1945-1950*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
- 1981 *Leon Polk Smith: Black and White Tondos*, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
The Fine Arts Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, New York
Leon Polk Smith: Drawings, Collages and Paintings, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
- 1980 Anderson Gallery, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia

- 1979 Susan Caldwell, Inc., New York, New York
Gallery Paula Anglim, San Francisco, California
Ace Gallery, Ltd., Vancouver, Canada; traveled to Ace Gallery, Ltd., Venice, California (1979)
International Kunstmarkt, Cologne, West Germany
- 1978 Art Gallery, State University of New York at Old Westbury, Old Westbury, New York
- 1977 Galerie Denise Rene, New York, New York
Pelham-Von Stoffler Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 1975 Galerie Denise Rene, New York, New York
- 1974 Galerie Denise Rene, New York, New York
- 1970 Galerie Chalette, New York, New York
- 1969 Galerie Chalette, New York, New York
Museum of Fine Arts, Fort Worth, Texas
- 1968 *Leon Polk Smith: Paintings, Reliefs and Drawings*, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, Texas
Leon Polk Smith, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California
Leon Polk Smith, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts
- 1967 Galerie Chalette, New York, New York
- 1965 Galerie Chalette, New York, New York
- 1964 Gallery Müller, Stuttgart, Germany
Studio Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany
- 1963 Stable Gallery, New York, New York
- 1962 Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York
Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1960 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, New York
- 1958 Camino Gallery, New York, New York
Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, New York
- 1956 Camino Gallery, New York, New York
- 1955 Mills College of Education Art Gallery, New York, New York
- 1949 The Pinacotheca Gallery, New York, New York
Rose Fried Gallery, New York
- 1946 Egan Gallery, New York, New York

- 1943 – 1944 Santa Fe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 1942 Telfair Academy of Arts & Sciences, Savannah, Georgia
The Pinacotheca Gallery, New York, New York
- 1941 Uptown Gallery, New York, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Into the Future: New Gifts to Commemorate the Museum's 75th Anniversary*, Palm Springs Museum of Art, Palm Springs, California
- 2012 *The Geometric Unconscious: A Century of Abstraction*, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 2011 *Raumformen/Spaceforms*, Situation Kunst, Bochum, Germany
- 2008 *Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art*, Ackland Art Museum, the University of North Carolina of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- 1999 *Severed Ear – The Poetry of Abstraction*, Creiger-Dane Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
De l'Expressionnisme Abstrait à l'Art Minimal: Peinture Abstraiter Aux Etas-Unis, 1940-1960, Musée Fabre, Montpellier, France
- 1998 *Five Sides to a Square*, Associated American Artist, New York, New York
Defining the Edge: Early American Abstraction, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York, New York
Frederick Kiesler/Leon Polk Smith, Jason McCoy, Inc., New York, New York
Kunst im Aufbruch, Abstraktion Zwischen 1945 und 1959, Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Germany
- 1997 *Inaugural Exhibition*, Jason McCoy, Inc., New York, New York
- 1996 *Histoires de Blanc et Noir*, Musée de Grenoble, France
Open Door, Konkrete Kunst International Barscay-Halle, Budapest, Hungary
- 1994 *The Constructive Vocabulary – An American Vision*, Galerie Dr. Istvan Schlegel, Zurich, Switzerland
Eloquent Lines, Louis Stern Gallery, Los Angeles, California
Paths of Abstraction: Selections from the Ciba Art Collection, Hunter College of the City University of New York, New York, New York
- 1993-1994 *In Classical Vein, Works from the Permanent Collection*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- 1993 *Aus Der Sammlung IX*, Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nuremberg, Germany
- 1991 *43rd American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Purchase Exhibition*, New York, New York
Drawings, Gallery North, Setauket, New York
Post-War Geometric Concepts 1945-1990, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, New York

- Between Mondrian and Minimalism: Neo-Plasticism in America*, Whitney Museum of American Art, Federal Reserve Plaza, New York, New York
- 1990 *42nd American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Purchase Exhibition*, New York, New York
- 1983 *Subtleties*, The Sutton Gallery, New York, New York
- 1982 *Purism*, Siegel Contemporary Art, Inc., New York
Painted Objects, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York
- 1981-1982 *Amerikan Malerie 1930-1981*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
- 1980 *Geometric Tradition in American Painting: 1920-1980*, Rosa Esman Gallery and Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, New York
Time and Space, Washburn Gallery, New York, New York
50th Anniversary – Gifts and Purchases Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- 1979 *Black and White are Colors, Paintings of the 1950s – 1970s*, Galleries of the Larchmont Colleges, Claremont, California
Collection: Art in America After World War II, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York
Paintings and Sculptures by Candidates for Art Awards, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, New York
Mondrian and Neo-Plasticism in America, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut
Hassum and Speicher Purchase Exhibition, American Academy for Arts and Letters, New York, New York
- 1978 *Gallery Group Exhibition: Stable Plus Guests*, Susan Caldwell, Inc., New York, New York
- 1977 *The Magic Circle*, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, New York
Paris-New York, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France
Perspectives; Three/Three, Pelham-Van Stoffer Gallery, Houston, Texas
Tenth Street Days, The Co-Ops of the 1950s, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York
Line-Weight-Color, Denis Rene Gallery, New York, New York
- 1976 *Contemporary Paintings*, Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University, New York; traveled to Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland (1976)
- 1975 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
American Art Since 1945, Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York; traveled to Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts
- 1974 *Celebration, Sarah Scaife Gallery Museum, of Art*, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Contemporary Art I, Galerie Denise Rene-Hans Meyer, Dusseldorf, West Germany
Striped and Shape Canvases, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, New York
Purism in New York, 1951-1963: Black and White, Buecher and Harpischords, New York, New York

- 1973 *15 Artists Americains*, Galerie Denise Rene, Paris
Visual R&D – A Corporation Collects, University Art Museum, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
Post-Mondrian Abstraction in America, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Illinois
- 1966 *Fifty Years of Modern Art, 1916-1966*, the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
Twenty Drawings: New Acquisitions, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York
Systemic Paintings, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York
- 1965 *The Responsive Eye*, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York
Twenty-Ninth Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, DC
An Exhibition of Retinal and Perceptual Art, the University Art Museum of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas
A Decade of American Drawings, 1955-1965, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
Colorists, 1950-1965, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California
75th Anniversary Exhibition, Three Distinguished Artists from Oklahoma: Lee Mullican, Joseph Glasco, Leon Polk Smith, Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma
- 1964-1965 *1964 Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- 1964 *The New Formalists: Contemporary American Painting*, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan
The Classic Spirit in 20th Century Art, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, New York
- 1963-1965 *Banners: A New Art Form*, the American Federation of Arts, New York, New York
- 1963 *Annual Exhibition 1962: Sculpture and Drawings*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
Twenty-Eighth Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, DC
Formalists, the Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, DC
- 1962 *65th Annual American Exhibition: Some Directions in Contemporary Painting and Sculpture, the Art Institute of Chicago*
Geometric Abstraction in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
1961, the Dallas Museum for Contemporary Arts, Dallas, Texas
- 1961 *Six American Abstract Painters*, Arthur Tooth and Sons, London, United Kingdom
Purism, David Herbert Gallery, New York, New York
American Abstract Expressionist and Imagists, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York
The 1961 Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture, Pittsburgh Department of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 1960 *Modern Classicism*, David Herbert Gallery, New York, New York
Konkrete Kunst: 50 Jahre Entwicklung, Helmhaus Zürich, Switzerland

- 1959 *Project 1: An Exhibition*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
Longview Foundation Purchases in Modern American Painting and Sculpture for the Union Sanatorium Association of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- 1952-1953 *Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York
- 1949 *Post Mondrian Painters*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, New York
- 1948-1949 *Abstract and Surrealist American Art Fifty-eighth Annual Exhibition of American Paintings and Sculpture*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
- 1946 *Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture: Watercolors and Drawings*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York; traveled to the Pinacotheca, New York (1946)
Five Major Works by Stella, De Kooning, Smith, Benn, Hesketh, Egan Gallery, New York, New York
- 1943 *Contemporary American Paintings from the Collection of the University of Arizona*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
International Water Color Exhibition – Eleventh Biennial, Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York

AWARDS

- 1986 Distinguished Alumnus Award, East Central University, Ada, Oklahoma
- 1979 Hassam and Speicher Fund Purchase Award, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, New York
- 1968 Tamarind Lithography Grant, Tamarind Workshop, Los Angeles, California
- 1966 National Council of Arts Award, Washington, D.C.
- 1958 Longview Grant
- 1943 Solomon R. Guggenheim Fellowship, New York, New York

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 O'Doherty, Brian. *Leon Polk Smith, 50 Years of Separation: 1940s and 1990s*. New York: Washburn Gallery.
 Von Berswordt-Wallrabe, Silke. *Leon Polk Smith, Raumformen*. Heidelberg: Wunderhorn-Verlag.
- 2008 Kattemeyer, Christian. *Leon Polk Smith Torn Paper Drawings: 1956 – 1964*. New York: Washburn

- Gallery.
Everett, Deborah and Elayne Zorn. *Encyclopedia of Native American Artists*. Westport: Greenwood Press.
- 2007 Humblet, Claudine. *The New American Abstraction 1950 – 1970*. Milan: Skira.
- 2005 McCauley Lee, Eric and Rima Canaan. *The Fred Jones Jr Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma: Selected Works*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press.
- 2006 Buck, Robert T. *Leon Polk Smith: American Original*. Norman: Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma.
- 2002 Auping, Michael. *Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth 110*. Fort Worth: Museum of Modern Art Fort Worth.
- 1998 Poullain, Christine. *Leon Polk Smith: Collages 1954 – 1986*. Grenoble: Musée de Grenoble.
- 1996 Danto, Arthur C. *Leon Polk Smith: American Painter*. Brooklyn: Brooklyn Museum of Art Publications.
- 1989 Auping, Michael. *Abstraction Geometry Painting: Selected Geometric Abstract Painting in America Since 1945*. Buffalo: Albright-Knox Gallery.
- 1987 Ratcliff, Daniel. *Leon Polk Smith: 5 Decades of Geometric Inventions*. Charlotteville: DiLaurenti Gallery.
- 1968 Alloway, Lawrence. *Leon Polk Smith: An Exhibition*. San Francisco: San Francisco Museum of Art.