

LISSON GALLERY

Leon Polk Smith

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| 1996 | Died in New York, NY, USA |
| 1938 | M.A. Columbia University, New York, NY, USA |
| 1934 | B.A. Oklahoma State University, Ada, OK, USA |
| 1906 | Born in Indian Territory (Chickasha, OK), USA |

Selected Solo Exhibitions

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| 2024 | ‘Leon Polk Smith: 1940 – 1961,’ Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 2023 | ‘Leon Polk Smith: Going Beyond Space,’ Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, Switzerland |
| 2022 | ‘Leon Polk Smith: 1945-1962,’ Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, CA, USA |
| 2021 | ‘Prairie Moon,’ Curated by Lynn Zelevansky, Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA ‘Leon Polk Smith,’ Lisson Gallery, East Hampton, NY, USA ‘Big Form, Big Space,’ Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada ‘Hiding in Plain Sight,’ Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ, USA |
| 2019 | ‘Leon Polk Smith: Endless Space,’ Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA |
| 2018 | ‘Leon Polk Smith,’ Lisson Gallery, London, UK ‘Tearing the Line: Works by Leon Polk Smith,’ Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel |
| 2017 | ‘Geometry in Motion,’ Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, NY, USA ‘Aspects of Abstraction,’ Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 2016 | ‘Leon Polk Smith: Back to Oklahoma,’ Oklahoma State University Museum of Art, Stillwater, OK, USA |
| 2011 | ‘Leon Polk Smith: Rauformen/Spaceforms,’ KUBUS, Situation Kunst (für Max Imdahl), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany |

- 2010 'Leon Polk Smith: The Tamarind Lithography Workshop,' Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX, USA
- 2008 'Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art,' Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
- 2008 'Severed Ear-The Poetry of Abstraction,' Creiger-Dane Gallery, Boston, MA, USA
- 1999 'De L'Expressionnisme Abstrait a L'Art Minimal: Peinture Abstraiter Aux Estas-Unis 1940-1960', Musee Fabre Montpellier, Montpellier, France
- 1998 'Five Sides to a Square,' Associated American Artist, New York, NY, USA, in association with Galerie Denise Rene, Paris, France
 'Defining the Edge,' Early American Abstraction, Selections from the Collection of Dr. Peter B. Fischer, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York, NY, USA
 'Frederick Kiesler / Leon Polk Smith,' Jason McCoy, Inc., New York, NY, USA
 'Kunst im Aufbruch, Abstraktion Zwischen 1945 und 1959,' Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany
- 1997 'Inaugural Exhibition,' Jason McCoy, Inc., New York, NY, USA
- 1996 'Histoires de Blanc et Noir,' Musée de Grenoble, France
 'Open Door,' Konkrete Kunst International Barscay-Halle, Budapest, Hungary
- 1995 'Leon Polk Smith: American Painter' Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY, USA
- 1994 'The Constructive Vocabulary-An American Vision', Galerie Dr. Istvan, Schlegl, Zurich, Switzerland
 'Eloquent Lines', Louis Stern Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
 'Paths of Abstraction: Selections from the Ciba Art Collection', Hunter College of the City University of New York, NY, USA
- 1993 'Aus Der Sammlung IX', Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Germany
 'In a Classical Vein, Works from the Permanent Collection', Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
- 1991 '43rd American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Purchase Exhibition', New York, NY, USA
 'Drawings', Gallery North, Setauket, New York, NY, USA
 'Post-War Geometric Concepts 1945-1990', Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY, USA
 'Between Mondrian and Minimalism: Neo-Plasticism in America', Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
- 1990 '42nd American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Purchase Exhibition', New York, NY, USA

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| 1983 | ‘Subleties’, The Sutton Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1982 | ‘Purism’, Siegel Contemporary Art, Inc., New York, NY, USA |
| 1981 | ‘Amerikanische Malerie 1930-1981,’ Haus der Kunst, München, Germany |
| 1980 | ‘Geometric Tradition in American Painting: 1920-1980’, Rosa Esman Gallery and Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY, USA ‘Time and Space’, Washburn Gallery, New York, NY, USA ‘50 th Anniversary – Gifts and Purchases Exhibition’, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA |
| 1979 | Susan Caldwell, Inc., New York, NY, USA Gallery Paula Anglim, San Francisco, CA, USA Ace Gallery, Ltd., Vancouver, BC, Canada Ace Gallery, Ltd., Venice, California, USA International Kunstmarkt, Cologne, West Germany |
| 1978 | Art Gallery, State University of New York at Old Westbury, NY, USA |
| 1975 | Galerie Denise Rene, New York, NY, USA |
| 1973 | Galerie Denise Rene, New York, NY, USA |
| 1970 | Galerie Chalette, New York, NY, USA |
| 1969 | Museum of Fine Arts, Fort Worth, TX, USA Galerie Chalette, New York, NY, USA |
| 1968 | Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, MA, USA travelled to San Francisco Museum of Art, CA, USA |
| 1967 | Galerie Chalette, New York, NY, USA |
| 1965 | Galerie Chalette, New York, NY, USA |
| 1964 | Gallery Müller, Stuttgart, Germany Studio Galerie, Frankfurt, Germany |
| 1963 | Stable Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1962 | Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela |
| 1961 | Stable Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1960 | Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1958 | Camino Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1955 | Mills College of Education Art Gallery, New York, NY, USA |

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| 1949 | The Pinacotheca Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1946 | Egan Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
| 1943 | Santa Fe Museum, Santa Fe, NM, USA |
| 1942 | Telfair Academy of Arts & Sciences, Savannah, GA, USA |
| 1941 | Uptown Gallery, New York, NY, USA |

Selected Group Exhibitions

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| 2024 | ‘Maria & Modernism,’ Heard Museum, Phoenix, AZ, USA |
| 2023 | ‘Circles and Squares,’ Addison & Rowe, Santa Fe, NM, USA ‘In the Middle of Everywhere: Artists on the Great Plains,’ Remail Modern Art Gallery, Saskatoon, Canada |
| 2020 | ‘The Marzio Years: Transforming the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1982-2010,’ Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, USA |
| 2017 | ‘Aspects of Abstraction,’ Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA |
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- 1980 'Geometric Tradition in American Painting: 1920-1980,' Rosa Esman Gallery and Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY, USA
'Time and Space,' Washburn Gallery, New York, NY, USA
'50th Anniversary – Gifts and Purchases Exhibition,' Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
- 1979 'Black and White are Colors, Paintings of the 1950s-1970s,' Galleries of the Larchmont Colleges, Caremont, CA, USA
'Collection: Art in America After World War II,' Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA
'Paintings and Sculptures by Candidates for Art Awards,' American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, NY, USA
'Mondrian and Neo-Plasticism in America,' Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, USA
'Hassum and Speicher Purchase Exhibition,' American Academy for Arts and Letters, New York, NY, USA
- 1977 'The Magic Circle,' The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY, USA
'Paris-New York,' Musée National D'Art Moderne, Paris, France
'American Geometric Abstract Painting of the 1950s,' Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, NY, USA
'Line-Weight-Color,' Denise Rene Gallery, New York, NY, USA
1976 'Contemporary Paintings,' Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery, College of Visual and Performing Arts, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA
1975 'American Art Since 1945,' Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA travelled to: Worchester Art Museum, Worchester, MA, USA

- 1974 'Celebration: Sarah Scaife Gallery Museum of Art,' Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
 'Contemporary Art I,' Galerie Denise Rene-Hans Meyer, Düsseldorf, Germany
 'Striped and Shaped Canvases,' The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY, USA
- 1973 'Visual R&D – A Corporation Collects,' University Art Museum, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, USA
 'Post-Mondrian Abstraction in America,' Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL, USA
- 1966 'Fifty Years of Modern Art, 1916-1966,' The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH, USA
 'Twenty Drawings: New Acquisitions,' The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA
 'Systemic Paintings,' The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA
- 1965 'The Responsive Eye,' The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA
 'Twenty-Ninth Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting,' The Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C., USA
 'An Exhibition of Retinal and Perceptual Art,' The University Art Museum of The University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA
 'A Decade of American Drawings, 1955-1965,' Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
 'American Collages,' The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA
 'Colorists, 1950-1965,' San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA, USA
 '75th Anniversary Exhibition, Three Distinguished Artists from Oklahoma: Lee Mullican, Joseph Glasco, Leon Polk Smith,' Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, USA
- 1964 '1964 Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture,' Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
 'The New Formalists: Contemporary American Painting,' The University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI, USA
 'The Classic Spirit in 20th Century Art,' Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1963 'Annual Exhibition 1962: Sculpture and Drawings,' Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
 'Twenty-Eighth Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting,' The Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C., USA
- 1962 '65th Annual American Exhibition: Some Directions in Contemporary Painting and Sculpture,' Pittsburgh Department of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute, PA, USA

‘Geometric Abstraction in America,’ Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA

- 1961 ‘Six American Abstract Painters,’ Arthur Tooth and Sons, London, UK
‘American Abstract Expressionist and Imagists,’ Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA
‘The 1961 Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture,’ Pittsburgh Department of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute, PA, USA
- 1959 ‘Project 1: An Exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Longview Foundation Purchases in Modern American Painting and Sculpture for the Sanatorium Association of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union,’ Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
- 1952 ‘Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting,’ Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
- 1949 ‘Post Mondrian Painters,’ Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1948 ‘Abstract and Surrealist American Art, Fifty-Eighth Annual Exhibition of American Paintings and Sculpture,’ The Art Institute of Chicago, IL, USA
- 1946 ‘Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Sculpture: Watercolors and Drawings,’ Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA
The Pinacotheca, New York, NY, USA
‘Five Major works by Stella, De Kooning, Smith, Benn, Hesketh,’ Egan Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1943 ‘Contemporary American Paintings from the Collection of the University of Arizona,’ presented under the auspices of the Whitney Museum of American Art, held at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
- 1941 ‘International Water Color Exhibition – Eleventh Biennial,’ The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, USA

Awards

- 1986 Distinguished alumnus award, East Central University, Ada, OK, USA
- 1979 Hassam and Speicher Fund Purchase Award, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, NY, USA
- 1972 Artist in Residence, University of California at Davis, Davis, CA, USA
- 1968 Artist in Residence, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA
Tamarind Lithography Grant, Tamarind Workshop, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 1966 National Council of Arts Award
- 1958 Longview Grant

1943 Solomon R. Guggenheim Fellowship

Appointments

1989 Lecturer, Myers-Bloom Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA

1987 Lecturer, Burnett Miller Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

1986 Lecturer, East Central University, Ada, OK, USA

1983 Lecturer and critic, Philadelphia College of Art, PA, USA
Lecturer and critic, Yale University Graduate School of Art, New Haven, CT, USA

1982 Lecturer and critic, Philadelphia College of Art, PA, USA

1979 Lecturer, Ace Gallery, Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Lecturer, Ace Gallery, Venice, CA, USA

1978 Lecturer, College at Old Westbury Art Gallery, State University of New York, Old Westbury, New York, NY, USA

1977 Lecturer, College of Fine Arts, University Art Museum, University of Texas at Austin, TX, USA

1972 Artist in Residence, University of California at Davis, CA, USA

1968 Artist in Residence, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA

1952-58 Head of Art Department, Mills College of Education, NY, USA

1949-51 Professor of Art, Rollins College, FL, USA

1942-44 Delaware State Supervisor of Education, DE, USA

1939-42 Professor of Art, T.C. University System of Georgia, GA, USA

1934-39 Classroom teacher, Oklahoma public schools, OK, USA

Collections

Albright-Knox Museum of Art, Buffalo, NY, USA
Art Institute of Chicago, IL, USA
The Brooklyn Museum, NY, USA
Birmingham Museum of Art, AL, USA
The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH, USA
Cleveland Museum of Art, OH, USA
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR, USA

Dallas Museum of Art, TX, USA
David Owsley Museum of Art, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, USA
Detroit Institute of Arts, MI, USA
East Central University, Ada, OK, USA
Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies, Washington, D.C., USA
The Art Collection of the First National Bank of Chicago, IL, USA
Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
Fort Worth Art Museum, TX, USA
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, USA
Grenoble Museum, Grenoble, France
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, NH, USA
The Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C., USA
Kunsthalle Nürnberg, Nürnberg, Germany
Los Angeles County Museum, CA, USA
Indianapolis Museum of Art, IN, USA
Israel Museum, Jerusalem
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
Milwaukee Art Museum, WI, USA
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX, USA
Montclair Art Museum, NJ, USA
Morgan Library and Museum, New York, NY, USA
Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA, USA
Museum Fur Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany
Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA
Museum fur Moderner Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany
Museum Pfalzgalerie, Kaiserslautern, Germany
National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., USA
Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin, Germany
Newark Museum, NJ, USA
New York Public Library, The Miriam and Ira D. Walach Division of Art,
Prints, and Photographs, New York, NY, USA
Oklahoma City Art Museum, OK, USA
Palm Springs Art Museum, CA, USA
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY, USA
Phoenix Museum of Art, AZ, USA
Portland Art Museum, OR, USA
Rhode Island School of Design Art Museum, Providence, RI, USA
Rose Museum, Brandies University, Waltham, MA, USA
Sammlung Ludwig Museum Moderner Kunst, Wien, Cologne, Germany
Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, NE, USA
Staatliches Museum fur Kunst und Design, Nurnberg, Germany
Stadel Musuem, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
State Art Collection, Oklahoma City, OK, USA
University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA, USA
University of Sydney Museum, Sydney, Australia

Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver B.C., Canada

Weisbaden Museum of Art, Weisbaden, Germany

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA

Wilhelm-Hack Museum, Ludwigshaafen Am Rhein, Germany

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, USA