

# LISSON GALLERY

## Leon Polk Smith

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

2024 'Leon Polk Smith: 1940 – 1961,' Lisson Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2023 'Leon Polk Smith: Going Beyond Space,' Museum Haus Konstructiv, 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: '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 Abstraite 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 '43<sup>rd</sup> 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 '42<sup>nd</sup> American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters Purchase Exhibition', New York, NY, USA

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, Münich, 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<sup>th</sup> 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

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
<b>Selected Group Exhibitions</b>	
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,’ Remai 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
2008	‘Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art’, Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
1999	‘Severed Ear-The Poetry of Abstraction’, Creiger-Dane Gallery, Boston, MA, USA ‘De L’Expressionnisme Abstrait a L’Art Minimal: Peinture Abstraite Aux Estas-Unis 1940-1960’, Musee Fabre Montpellier, Montpellier, France
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‘Time and Space,’ Washburn Gallery, New York, NY, USA  
‘50<sup>th</sup> 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: Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, 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  
‘75<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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  
‘65<sup>th</sup> 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 Hirshhorn 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, Ludwigshafen Am Rhein, Germany  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT, USA