

# HEATHERGAUDIOFINEART

382 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

p. 203.801.9590

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## SAM FRANCIS (1923-1994)

American post-war artist Sam Francis was born in San Mateo, California in 1923. Twenty years later, in the middle of World War II, Francis enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps before leaving a year later due to spinal injuries. After leaving the war, Francis began painting as a hobby but took it up seriously under the instruction of painter David Park.

Francis then went on to re-enroll at the University of California Berkeley, as he had been a student there for two years before World War II, graduating with a BA in 1949 and a MA in 1950. Francis continued to paint and grow as an artist and had his first solo exhibit in 1952 at the Galerie Nina Dausset in Paris, France. Throughout the rest of his life, Francis went on to receive several more solo exhibitions at the Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York; Museum of Modern Art, Toyama, Japan, and Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Fondation Adolphe de Rothschild, Paris, France, among many others.

Regarding his practice, Francis was a painter and printmaker who created his own style of painting—he was never associated with just one art movement. Yet, Francis had many influences, including abstract expressionism, surrealism, impressionism, as well as French and Japanese landscape painting. The influence of these art styles and movements are seen most clearly in Francis' vibrant colors, powerful use of space, compositional movement, sensitivity towards light, and overwhelming scale.

## EDUCATION

1950 M.A., University of California, Berkeley, CA

1949 B.A., University of California, Berkeley, CA

1946-45 Studied painting at the California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA

1943-41 Studied botany and psychology on a pre-medical track at the University of California, Berkeley, CA

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### SOLO

2025 *Where Color Begins: Works on Paper by Sam Francis*, Hollis Taggart, New York, NY

2024-23 *Sam Francis Centennial*, Wisch Family Gallery, Anderson Collection at Stanford University, Stanford, CA

2021 *Sam Francis & Japan: Emptiness Overflowing*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA

2020 *Sam Francis: The '70s*, Jonathan Novak Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

2019-18 *Sam Francis: From Dusk to Dawn*, Heather James Hine Art, Palm Desert, CA

2017 *Sam Francis*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2016 *Free Floating Clouds*, The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

*Colour in Space: Sam Francis*, Pearl Lam Galleries, Hong Kong

*Sam Francis Selected Works: '57-'94*, Samuel Vanhoegaerden Gallery, Knokke, Belgium

*Drawing, Dreaming, and Desire, Works on Paper by Sam Francis*, Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, CA

2015 *Sam Francis: Works on Paper from the 50s*, Van de Weghe Fine Art, New York, NY

2014 *Sam Francis*, Guy Pieters Gallery, Saint Paul de Vence, France

*Sam Francis in Amstelveen*, Museum Jan van der Togt, Amstelveen, Netherlands

*Sam Francis*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, United Kingdom

*Sam Francis: Five Decades of Abstract Expressionism from California Collections*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

2014-13 *Sam Francis: Five Decades of Abstract Expressionism from California Collections*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, CA

2012 *Sam Francis: Works from the 1950s on paper and canvas*, Gallery Delaive, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2012-11 *Sam Francis*, Galerie Iris Wazzau, Davos, Switzerland

2010 *Sam Francis: Retrospective in Blue*, Danubiana Meulensteen Art Museum, Bratislava, Slovakia

2006 *Sam Francis und Bern*, Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, Switzerland

2005 *Sam Francis: De siste arbeider*, Kaare Berntsen, Oslo, Norway

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- Sam Francis*, Robert Sandelson Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Sam Francis: The Unknown Works from the 1990s*, Gallery Delaive, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
2005-04 *Sam Francis: Remembering 1923-1994*, Museum Jan van der Togt, Amstelveen, Netherlands  
2003 *Sam Francis: Color is the Essence of It All. The Davis, Fischer, Sosin Families Sam Francis Art Collection 1962-1994*, Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, Santa Monica Community College, Santa Monica, CA  
2002 *Sam Francis: Remaking the World*, Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, NV  
2000 *Sam Francis: Works from the Seventies*, Ikon Contemporary Art, Santa Monica, CA  
1999 *Sam Francis: Fresh Air Paintings on Paper and Prints*  
*Sam Francis: The Last Works*, Galleri Faurschou, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*Sam Francis: Works from 1948-1994*, Gallery Delaive, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
1997 *Sam Francis*, Galerie Delaive, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Sam Francis*, Museo d'Arte, Mendrisio, Switzerland  
1997-96 *Sam Francis: A Survey of Paintings 1965-1983*, Gagosian Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
1996 *The Paintings of Sam Francis from the Collection of Jean Rouge*, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, AZ  
1996-95 *Sam Francis: Les années parisiennes 1950-1961*, Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris, France  
1995 *Sam Francis: The Last Works*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
1994 *Sam Francis: Bilder, Grafiken 1950-1992*, Galerie Proarta, Zurich, Switzerland  
1993 *Sam Francis*, Kunst-und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany  
1991 *Sam Francis: 40 Years of Friendship—Werke 1945-1990*, Galerie Kornfeld, Bern, Switzerland  
1990 *Sam Francis Paintings 1988-1989*, Heland Wetterling Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden  
1988 *Sam Francis, de 1947 à 1988, sur papier*, Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, France  
1987 *Sam Francis: New Paintings*, André Emmerich Gallery, New York, NY  
*Sam Francis: New Works*, Knoedler Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Sam Francis: 1957-1986*, Nantenshi Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
1984 *Sam Francis*, Cantor/Lemberg Gallery, Birmingham, MI  
1981 *Sam Francis: Recent Work*, André Emmerich Gallery, New York, NY  
1980 *Sam Francis*, Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, CA  
*Sam Francis: Oeuvres Nouvelles*, Centre Internationale de Création Artistique, Abbaye de Sénanque, Gordes, France  
1980-79 *Sam Francis: Recent Gouaches and Prints*, Cantor/Lemberg Gallery, Birmingham, MI  
1979 *Sam Francis: Paintings and Works on Paper*, Minami Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*Sam Francis*, Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, France  
*Sam Francis: Recent Paintings*, André Emmerich Gallery, New York, NY  
1978-77 *Sam Francis: Art in Progress*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
1976 *Sam Francis expose chez Jean Fournier ses peintures acryliques sur papier de riz*, Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, France  
1975 *Sam Francis: Ölbilder-Farbige Zeichnungen*, Galerie Kornfeld und Klipstein, Zürich, Switzerland  
*Sam Francis*, Nicholas Wilder Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
1974 *Sam Francis: Paintings and Gouaches 1969-1973*, Gimpel Fils Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*Sam Francis*, Nagoya American Center, Nagoya, Japan  
1973 *Sam Francis: Werke 1969-1973*, Galerie Kornfeld und Cie, Bern, Switzerland  
1973-72 *Sam Francis: Paintings 1947—1972*, Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY  
1970-69 *Sam Francis: Paintings and Gouaches*, Felix Landau Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
1968 *Sam Francis*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands; Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland  
*Sam Francis*, Tokyo Central Bijutsukan Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
1968-67 *Sam Francis: A Retrospective Exhibition*, University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston  
1967 *Sam Francis: Oil Paintings and Colored Drawings from 1962-1966*, Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York, NY  
1966 *Sam Francis, Werke 1962-1966*, Kornfeld and Klipstein, Berne, Switzerland  
1963 *Sam Francis*, Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hannover, Germany

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- 1960 *Sam Francis*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden; Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, Switzerland  
1959 Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, CA  
San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA  
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA  
*Sam Francis: Works on Paper*, Zoe Dusanne Gallery, Seattle, WA  
1958 *Paintings by Sam Francis*, Phillips Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
1957 *Sam Francis: Oil Paintings and Watercolours*, Gimpel Fils Gallery, Ltd., London, United Kingdom  
*Sam Francis: Watercolors and Around the Blues*, Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY  
1956 Galerie Rive Droite, Paris France  
*First New York Exhibition of Paintings by Sam Francis*, Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, NY  
1955 *Sam Francis*, Galerie Rive Droite, Paris, France  
1952 *Sam Francis: Peintures*, Galerie Nina Dausset, Paris, France  
Galerie du Dragon, Paris, France

## GROUP

- 2026 *Expanded Fields*, Hollis Taggart, New York, NY  
2025 *Summer Show*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
2024 *Asian-American Abstraction: Historic to Contemporary*, Hollis Taggart, New York, NY  
2021 *Legends*, Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY  
*Wild and Brilliant: The Martha Jackson Gallery and Post-War Art*  
2019 *Un Art Autre*, Lévy Gorvy, London, United Kingdom  
*A line (a)round an idea: Selected Works on Paper*, Gagosian, Geneva, Switzerland  
2018 *Layers of Nature—Beyond the Line*, Sezon Museum of Modern Art, Karuizawa, Japan  
*The Water Lilies: American Abstract Painting and the Last Monet*, Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris, France  
2018-17 *Sam Francis & Paul Jenkins*, Galerie Iris Wazzau, Davos Platz, Switzerland  
2017-16 *Sam Francis & Friends, Ting-Appel-Alechinsky*, Museum Jan van der Togt, Amstelveen, Netherlands  
*Abstract Expressionism*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
2016 *Sam Francis & Art of the Post-War Era*, Christopher Clark Fine Art, San Francisco, CA  
*Art New York*, Pier 94, New York, NY; Gallery Delaive, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
*Sam Francis-Victor Vasarely: Order and Disorder*, Samuel Le Paire Fine Art, Paris, France  
*The European Fine Art Fair 2016*, Maastricht, Netherlands; Gallery Delaive, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
2016-15 *Kunst Auf Papier – Works on Paper*, Galerie Iris Wazzau, Davos Platz, Switzerland  
*La Nouvelle Présentation des Collections Modernes, 1905 – 1965*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France  
2015 *Picasso and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art Masterpieces from the Museum of Modern Art*, Toyama, Tokyo Station Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
*American Painters in Paris*, Galerie Diane de Polignac, Paris, France  
2013 *Renard Collection*, Fondation Beyeler, Riehen, Switzerland  
2012 *Pasadena to Santa Barbara: A Selected History of Art in Southern California, 1951-1969*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
2011 *Abstractions*, Shepard and Derom Galleries, New York, NY  
*Abstract USA 1958-1968*, Rijksmuseum Twenthe, Enschede, Netherlands  
2008 *Pacific Light: A Survey of California Watercolor, 1908-2008*, Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skärhamn, Sweden  
2006 *Plane/Figure: Amerikanische Kunst aus Schweizer Privatsammlungen und aus dem Kunstmuseum Winterthur*, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland  
2005 *Artists & Prints: Part 3*, Muesum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
2001-00 *Celebrating Modern Art: The Anderson Collection*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
1999 *Pop Impressions Europe/USA: Prints and Multiples from The Museum of Modern Art*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
*Dubuffet to de Kooning: Expressionist Prints from Europe and America*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

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- 1996-95 *A Bay Area Connection: Works from the Anderson Collection*, Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA  
1994 *Sam Francis: Works on Paper/Mark Erickson: Recent Paintings*, Robert Green Fine Arts, Mill Valley, CA  
1989 *Master Prints from the Collection*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
1988 *Art of the 70s*, Manny Silverman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Les années 50*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Musée national d'art moderne, Paris, France  
1983 *Kunst nach 45 aus Frankfurter Privatbesitz*, Steinernes Haus, Frankfurt, Germany; Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany  
1975-74 *American Prints: 1913-1963*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
1972 *California Prints*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
1969 *Tamarind: Homage to Lithography*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
1965 *Sam Francis, Richard Diebenkorn: Two American Painters, Abstract and Figurative*, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, Scotland  
1964 *The Friends Collect: 7<sup>th</sup> Friends Loan Exhibition*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
1959 *Arte nuova: Esposizione Internazionale di Pittura e scultura: Ikebana di Sofu Tesbigahara*, Palazzo Graneri, Turin, Italy  
1957 *Twentieth-Century European and American Pictures*, Dwight Hall, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA; Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA  
*Today's Painting: The Art of Sam Francis and Toshimitsu Imai*, Tokyo Department Store Gallery, Tokyo, Japan  
1956 *12 Americans*, Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY  
1954 *Caratteri della pittura d'oggi*, Galleria Di Spazio, Rome, Italy  
1953-52 *Un Art Autre*, Studio Paul Facchetti, Paris, France

## SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

California Governor's Award for the Arts, 1990  
Order of Commander in the French Legion of Honor  
Guggenheim Fellowship  
Order of the Rising Sun, Japan

## SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, Nagoya, Japan  
Albertina Kunst Museum Palais, Vienna  
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY  
Anderson Collection at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA  
Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Austrian Ludwig Foundation for Art and Science  
The Baker Museum, Naples, FL  
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, MD  
Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, Charlotte, NC  
Benesse House Museum, Naoshima, Japan  
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY  
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA  
Centre Pompidou, Musée national d'art moderne, Centre de creation industrielle, Paris, France  
Charles H. MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, IA  
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA  
Dallas Museum of Art, TX  
Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH  
Des Moines Art Center, Edmundson Art Foundation Inc, Des Moines, IA  
Fogg Art Museum, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, MA  
Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, Switzerland

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Fondation Jean et Suzanne Planque  
Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA  
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
Henie-Onstad Art Centre, Høvikodden, Oslo, Norway  
Hessel Museum of Art and CCS Galleries, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY  
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.  
Honolulu Museum and Academy of Arts with Contemporary Museum of Art, Honolulu, HI  
Idemitsu Museum of Arts, Idemitsu, Tokyo  
Kawamura Memorial Museum of Art, Sakura, Chiba-ken, Japan  
Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland  
Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland  
Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland  
Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany  
Les Abattoirs—Art modern et contemporain, Toulouse, France  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Los Angeles, CA  
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY  
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University, St. Louis, MO  
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI  
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ  
Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, Montreal, Canada  
Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany  
Museum Jorn, Silkeborg, Denmark  
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, Austria  
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
The Museum of Modern Art, Otsu City, Shiga, Japan  
Museum Wurth Künzelsau, Künzelsau, Germany  
The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo  
New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA  
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC  
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL  
Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, CA  
Ohara Museum of Art, Kurashiki, Japan  
Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA  
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA  
Sezon Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan  
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY  
Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany  
Städel Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany  
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

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Toyama Prefectural Museum of Art and Design, Toyama, Japan

UCI Institute and Museum for California Art, Irvine, CA

Ulster Museum, National Museums Northern Ireland, Botanic Gardens, Belfast, United Kingdom

University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands

Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Wilhelm Hack Museum Ludwigshafen am Rhein, Ludwigshafen, Germany