

LEON KOSSOFF

Lives and works in London

Biography

- 1926 Born City Road, Islington, London
- 1926-39 Lived in Shoreditch, Bethnal Green and Hackney, London
- 1938-43 Attended Hackney Downs (Grocers) School, London
- 1939-43 Evacuated with school to King's Lynn, Norfolk
Lived with Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Bishop who encouraged his interest in art
Made first paintings
- 1943 Returned to London. Attended life drawing evening classes at Toynbee Hall and St. Martin's School of Art, London
- 1943-45 Commercial Art Course at St Martin's School of Art, London
- 1945-48 Military Service with Royal Fusiliers, attached to 2nd Battalion Jewish Brigade, served in Italy, Holland, Belgium, and Germany
- 1949-53 Studied at St Martin's School of Art and attended evening classes at Borough Polytechnic, London, with David Bomberg (1950-52)
- 1950-53 Studio at Mornington Crescent
- 1953-61 Moved to Bethnal Green
- 1953-56 Studied at Royal College of Art, London
- 1953-54 Worked on paintings of St Paul's Cathedral and City building sites. First paintings of Seedo and of his father
- 1956 Joined Helen Lessore's Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Place, London
- 1959-69 Taught at Regent Street Polytechnic, Chelsea School of Art and St. Martin's School of Art, London
- 1961-66 Moved studio to Willesden Junction. During this period finished 'Man in a Wheelchair' (his first painting of John Lessore)
- 1966 Moved studio to Willesden Green (1966 to present)
- 1969 First swimming pool painting. Worked on this subject until 1972, at the same time worked on paintings of York Way railway bridge, and various sitters
- 1972-75 Occupied an additional studio in Dalston Lane, north London. Worked on paintings of Dalston Junction and Ridley Road street market; Dalston Lane; and views of Hackney and the German Hospital
- 1976 First Kilburn Underground paintings
- 1980 First paintings of red-brick school building. Continued work on both this subject and Kiburn Underground paintings. Also working concurrently with various sitters

- 1987 First paintings of Christ Church, Spitalfields; 'Here Comes the Diesel' and 'Between Kilburn and Willesden Green'. Continued work on these subjects until 1994
- 1994 First Embankment paintings
- 1997 First Kings Cross paintings
- 2002 First Cherry Tree paintings

Solo Exhibitions

- 2013-2014 *Leon Kossoff: London Landscapes*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England; travels to Galerie Lelong; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, New York; L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2010-11 *Leon Kossoff*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England; travels to Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2010 *Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2009 *Leon Kossoff: From the Early Years 1957-1967*, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, in association with L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2008 *Leon Kossoff: Unique Prints of Paintings from the National Gallery*, Art Space Gallery | Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London
- 2007 *Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting*, National Gallery of Art, London
- 2004-2005 *Leon Kossoff: Selected Paintings 1956 - 2000*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark; traveled to Museum of Art Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2002 *Leon Kossoff: Drawn to Painting*, Poussin, Rubens and Other Subjects, Pillsbury & Peters Fine Art, Dallas, TX
- 2001 *Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff Prints and Drawings after Nicolas Poussin*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
Leon Kossoff, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2000 *Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff Prints and Drawings After Nicolas Poussin*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Poussin Landscapes by Kossoff, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
After Nicolas Poussin: New Etchings by Leon Kossoff, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Leon Kossoff, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; traveled to Annely Juda Fine Art, London

- 1997 *Leon Kossoff: Corner Exhibition*, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1996 *Leon Kossoff*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1995-1996 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings*, XLVI Venice Biennale, Venice; traveled to Dusseldorf Kunstverein, Dusseldorf, Germany; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1993 *Leon Kossoff: Drawings 1985 - 1992*, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London; traveled to L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1988 *Leon Kossoff*, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London, England
Leon Kossoff: Paintings, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 1984 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Drawings and Etchings*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London
Leon Kossoff: Recent Work, Fischer Fine Art, London, England; traveled to L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1983 *Leon Kossoff*, Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York
- 1982 *Leon Kossoff Paintings*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1981 *Leon Kossoff: Paintings from a Decade 1970-80*, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, England
Leon Kossoff, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, England
- 1980 *Recent Drawings*, Riverside Studio, London
- 1979 *Leon Kossoff: Paintings and Drawings*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1975 *Leon Kossoff at Fischer Fine Art*, London
- 1974 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings and Drawings*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1973 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings and Drawings*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1972 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 1968 *Leon Kossoff*, Marlborough Fine Art Ltd., London
- 1964 *Leon Kossoff: A Selection of Paintings, 1949-1964*, Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1963 *Leon Kossoff* [exhibition of paintings and drawings], Beaux Arts Gallery,

London

- 1961 *Leon Kossoff* [exhibition of paintings], Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1959 *Leon Kossoff* [exhibition of paintings and drawings], Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1957 *Leon Kossoff* [exhibition of paintings, drawings, lithographs, etchings], Beaux Arts Gallery, London

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2014-2015 *Bare Life: Bacon, Freud, Hockney and others. London Artists Working from Life 1950-80*, LWL Museum fur Kunst und Kultur, Munster, Germany
Kunstkabinet: School of London, Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam
- 2014 *Impressions: The Fine Art of Original Prints*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, New York, NY
I Cheer a Dead Man's Sweetheart: 21 Painters in Britain, De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, East Sussex
- 2013 *Paintings & Ceramics*, Erskine Hall and & Coe, London
Radical Figures: Post War British Figurative Painting, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, UK
- 2011-2012 *The Mystery of Appearance*, Haunch of Venison, London (catalogue)
- 2011 *Loose Canon*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2010 *Modernist Realism: The School of London from Andrews to O'Donoghue*, James Hyman Gallery, London, England
- 2009-10 *Paint Made Flesh*, Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; traveled to The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. 2009; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2008-09 *Goya and the Modern World*, Museo de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain (catalogue)
- 2008 *From Berlin to London: Works from a private European collection: Frank Auerbach, Max Beckmann, David Bomberg, John Constable, Otto Dix, Lucian Freud, George Grosz, Leon Kossoff, Emil Nolde, Paula Rego, Walter Richard Sickert*, Luc Bellier Gallery, Paris

- Other Men's Flowers*, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
A Guest of Honour: From Francis Bacon to Peter Doig, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria (catalogue)
- 2007 - 08 *British Vision: Observation and Imagination in British Art 1750-1950*, Museum of Fine Arts Ghent, Belgium (catalogue)
- 2007 *The Mirror and the Mask: Portraiture in the Age of Picasso*, Museo Thyssen Bornemisza and Fundacion Caja Madrid, Madrid, Spain; traveling to Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX (catalogue)
The Naked Portrait, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland; traveled to Compton Verney, Warwickshire, England, (catalogue)
- 2006 *Passion for Paint, Bristol's City Museum and Art Gallery*, Bristol; traveled to Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, and National Gallery, London
British Art: A Post-War Selection, Thomas Gibson Fine Art Ltd., London
The New Landscape/The New Still Life: Soutine and His Legacy 1950 - 2006, Cheim and Read, New York
- 2005 - 06 *Self-Portraits: 1500-2000*, National Portrait Gallery, London; traveled to Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2005 *Impressionist and Modern Masters*, Richard Green Galleries, London
- 2004 *Visions of London: Contemporary Artists Draw Their City*, Art Space Gallery, Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London
- 2003 *From Life: Radical Figurative Art from Sickert to Bevan*, James Hyman Fine Art, London
- 2001 - 02 *Corner Exhibition*, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2000 - 01 *The School of London and Their Friends: The Collection of Elaine and Melvin Merians*, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT; traveled to Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, New York
- 2000 *La Mirada Fuerte: Pintura Figurativa de Londres*, British Council in association with the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Monterrey, Mexico
- 1999 *Close Encounters: New Art from the Old*, National Gallery London
L'École de Londres de Bacon à Bevan, Fondation Dina L'École de

- Londres de Bacon à Bevan, Foundation Dina Vierny / Musée Maillol, Paris; traveled to Auditorio De Galicia, Santiago de Compostella; Kunsthhaus, Vienna, Italy
- 1995 - 96 *From London: Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Andrews, Auerbach, Kitaj, British Council in association with the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh; traveled to Musée d'Etat- Staatsmuseum, Luxembourg; Musée Cantonal de Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland; Fundacio Caixa de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain*
- 1995 *Identity and Alterity: Figures of the Body 1895-1995, XLVI Venice International Biennale, Museo Correr and Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy*
- 1994 - 95 *Dobbel Virkelighet/Double Reality, Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, Norway*
An American Passion: The Susan Kasen Summer and Robert D. Summer Collection of Contemporary British Painting McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, Scotland
- 1994 *Visual Excitement, Amsterdam, Netherlands*
Helen Lessore: Artist and Art Dealer, Theo Waddington Fine Art, London
- 1993 - 94 *Drawing on These Shores: A View of British Drawing and Its Affinities, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, England*
- 1993 *Seven British Painters: Selected Masters of Post War British Art, Marlborough Fine Art, London*
- 1992 - 93 *British Figurative Painting of the 20th Century, British Council, Israel Museum, Jerusalem*
- 1991 - 92 *Da Bacon a Oggi: L'Outsider nella Figurazione Britannica/From Bacon to Now: the Outsider in British Configuration, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence*
The Contemporary Art Society: Eighty Years of Collecting, Hayward Gallery, London
Transformation of Appearance: Andrews, Auerbach, Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Tate Gallery, London
- 1991 *Affinities in Paint, Crane Gallery, London*
- 1990 *Glasgow's Great British Art Exhibition, Glasgow Museum and Art Galleries, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow*
Tribute to Peter Fuller, Beaux Arts, Bath, England
The Pursuit of the Real: British Figurative Painting from Sickert to

- Bacon*, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester, England; traveled to the Barbican Art Gallery, London; Glasgow City Art Gallery, Glasgow
The British Imagination: Twentieth Century Painting, Sculpture and Drawing, Hirschl & Adler, New York
- 1989 *School of London: Works on Paper*, Odette Gilbert Gallery, London
Picturing People: British Figurative Art since 1945, British Council, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 1989-1990 *Leon Kossoff/Bill Woodrow, Saatchi Collection*, London
- 1988 *The British Picture*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
Exhibition Road: Painters at the Royal College of Art, Royal College of Art, London
Past and Present, Arts Council of Great Britain, Manchester City Art Gallery, England
- 1987 - 88 *British Figurative Painting, Pamela Auchincloss Gallery*, Santa Barbara, CA
- 1987 *British Art in the 20th Century: The Modern Movement*, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Works on Paper, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London
Current Affairs, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, The British Art Council; traveled to Mucsarnok, Budapest, Hungary; National Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic; Zacheta, Warsaw, Poland
A School of London (Six Figurative Painters), The British Council; traveled to Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebeck; Museo d'Arte Moderna, Ca'Pesaro, Venice; and Kunstmuseum, Dusseldorf, Germany
Art of Our Time: The Saatchi Collection, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
Past and Present: Contemporary Artists Drawing from the Masters, South Bank Centre, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester, England
- 1986 *Forty Years of Modern Art*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1985 *A Singular Vision: Paintings of the Figure by Contemporary Artists*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, England
The British Show, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia; traveled to Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
Rocks and Flesh: and Argument for British Drawing, Norwich School of Art Gallery, Norwich, England
Human Interest: Fifty Years of British Art about People, Cornerhouse,

Manchester, England

- 1984 *The Hard Won Image: Traditional Method and Subject in Recent British Art*, Tate Gallery, London
The Forgotten Fifties, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, England; traveled to Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich, England; Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, England; Camden Arts Centre, London
- The Proper Study: Contemporary Figurative Paintings from Britain*, The British Council, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Bombay Centre for the Performing Arts, India
The British Art Show: Old Allegiances and New Directions 1979-1984, Arts Council of Great Britain, City of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, England
- 1982 *British Watercolors and Drawings: 1950 to the Present Day*, The British Council; traveled to China Art Gallery, Beijing; Art Gallery and Shenyang Hans Kous Museum of Art, Hong Kong; Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1981 - 82 *13 Britische Kunstler: Eine Ausstellung uber Malerei/13 British Artists: A Painting Exhibition*, Neue Gallerie Sammlung Ludwig, Aachen, Kunstverein, Mannheim, Germany
Eight Figurative Painters: Michael Andrews, Frank Auerbach, Francis Bacon, William Coldstream, Lucian Freud, Patrick George, Leon Kossoff, Euan Uglow, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, MA; traveled to Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA
- 1980 *Art Anglais d'aujourd'hui: Collection de la Tate Gallery*, Londres, Musee Rath, Geneva, Switzerland
From Object to Object, Arts Council of Great Britain, England
- 1979 - 80 *The British Arts Show*, Arts Council of Great Britain, England, traveled to Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, England
- 1979 *The Hayward Annual: Current British Art* selected by Helen Chadwick, Paul Gopal Choudhury, James Faure Walker, John Hilliard and Nicholas Pope, Arts Council of Great Britain Hayward Gallery, London
This Knot of Life, Paintings and Drawings by British Artists, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1976 *The Human Clay: An Exhibition Selected by R.B. Kitaj*, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1977 *British Painting 1952-1977*, Royal Academy of Arts, London

- 1975 *Body and Soul*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, England
Drawings of People: and Exhibition of Drawings selected for the Arts Council by Patrick George, Arts Council of Great Britain, London
- 1974 *British Painting '74*, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1972 *English Explorations: An Exhibition of Recent Works by Seven Artists Living and Working in London*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1968 *Helen Lessore and the Beaux Arts Gallery*, Marlborough Fine Art, London
- 1967 *Recent British Paintings from the Peter Stuyvesant Foundation Collection*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1964 *Survey of Figurative Painting*, Hempstead Art Center, London
- 1954-1964 *Painting and Sculpture of a Decade*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1963 *British Painting in the Sixties: An Exhibition Organized by The Contemporary Art Society*, Tate Gallery/Whitechapel Art Gallery, London

Awards

- 2014 American Academy of Arts and Letters

Public Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
 Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
 Arts Council of Great Britain, London
 Australian National Gallery, Canberra, Australia
 Berardo Museum, Collection of Modern & Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal
 Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Birmingham
 British Council, London
 British Museum, London
 Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
 Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum, Bedford, England
 Chrysler Museum, Provincetown, Massachusetts
 Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
 Contemporary Art Society, London
 Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston-Upon-Hull, England
 J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
 Government Art Collection, London

Guildhall Art Gallery, London
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
The Jewish Museum, New York
Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds
Leicester Museum and Galleries, Leicester, England
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Museum of London, London
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland
Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany
National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
National Portrait Gallery, London
Rochdale Art Gallery, Lancashire
Rooseum Center for Contemporary Art, Malmö, Sweden
Royal College of Art Collection, London
Rugby Museum, Warwickshire, England
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
Peter Stuyvesant Collection, London
Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Wiltshire, England
Tate Gallery, London
Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Lugano, Switzerland
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Manchester
Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut