

# LEON KOSSOFF

## Biography

- 1926 Born in City Road, Islington, London  
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  
Commerical 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  
Attended evening classes at Borough Polytechnic, London, with David Bomberg (1950-52)
- 1950-53 Studio at Mornington Crescent
- 1953-61 Moved to Bethnal Green  
Studied at Royal College of Art, London  
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  
Finished "Man in a Wheelchair" (first painting of John Lessore)
- 1966-pres Moved studio to Willesdon Green
- 1969 First swimming pool painting  
Worked on this subject until 1972, as well as 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 to work on this subject, Kiburn Underground paintings, as well as various sitters
- 1987 First paintings of Christ Church, Spitalfields; "Here Comes the Diesel" and "Between Kilburn and Willesden Green"  
Continued to work on these subjects until 1994
- 1994 First Embankment paintings
- 1997 First Kings Cross paintings
- 2002 First Cherry Tree paintings
- 2019 Died in London, UK

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 *Frieze Masters* (Annely Juda Fine Art), Regent's Park, London, UK, 13 October - 17 October 2021

- Leon Kossoff: Making Marks*, Marlborough Gallery, London, UK, 8 October - 30 October 2021
- 2021-22 *Leon Kossoff: A Life in Painting*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, UK, 30 September - 4 December 2021; traveled to Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, NY, 13 January – 5 March 2022; L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, 26 January – 26 March 2022 (catalogue)
- 2019 *Leon Kossoff: Everyday London*, Timothy Taylor, New York, NY, 29 March - 24 May 2019  
*Leon Kossoff: A London Life*, Piano Nobile Gallery, London, UK, 1 March - 11 May 2019 (catalogue)
- 2013-14 *Leon Kossoff: London Landscapes*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England, 8 May - 6 July 2013; traveled to Galerie Lelong, 5 September – 26 October 2013; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, 5 November – 21 December 2013; L.A. Louver, Venice, 23 January – 1 March 2014 (catalogue)
- 2010-11 *Leon Kossoff*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England; traveled to Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; L.A. Louver, Venice, CA  
*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 London I Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London
- 2007 *Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting*, National Gallery of Art, London
- 2004-05 *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 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, Los Angeles  
*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
- 1995-96 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings*, XLVI Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; 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  
*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; 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

### Select Group Exhibitions

- 2021 *Frieze Los Angeles IRL*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, 27 July - 6 August 2021  
*Defining British Art, 1910-2000*, Piano Nobile Gallery, London, UK, 23 June - 23 July 2021  
*Landscape Portrait: Now and Then*, Hestercombe Gallery, Hestercombe Gardens Trust, Hestercombe, Taunton, UK, 17 May - 25 July 2021
- 2020-21 *45 at 45: L.A. Louver Celebrates 45 Years with 45 Artists*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, 20 October 2020 - 16 January 2021  
*Anthony Caro: 6 Sculptures, Leon Kossoff: 6 Paintings*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, UK, 19 September - 17 October 2020  
*Going Home*, Marlborough Graphics, London, UK, 14 September - 9 October 2020
- 2019 *British Art Fair 2019*, (with Piano Nobile), London, UK, 3 October - 6 October 2019  
*Summer Exhibition*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, UK, 15 July - 30 August 2019  
*Group Show*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, 1 May - 8 June 2019
- 2018 *50 Years, 50 Artists*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, UK, 8 November 2018 - 26 January 2019 (catalogue)  
*Rembrandt: Britain's Discovery of the Master*, Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, 7 July - 14 October 2018  
*Evolver*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, 20 June - 17 August 2018  
*Art Basel*, Annely Juda Fine Art, Basel, 14 June - 17 June 2018  
*All Too Human: Bacon, Freud and a Century of Painting Life*, Tate Britain, London, UK, 28 February - 27 August 2018
- 2016-17 *British Art from Whistler to World War II*, curated by Peyton Skipwith, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA, 18 September 2016 - 8 January 2017  
*London Calling: Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Andrews, Auerbach, Kitaj*, curated by Julian Brooks and Timothy Potts, The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, 26 July - 13 November 2016
- 2014-15 *Bare Life: Bacon, Freud, Hockney and others. London Artists Working from Life 1950-80*, LWL Museum fur Kunst und Kultur, Munster, Germany, 8 November 2014 - 22 February 2015  
*Impressions: The Fine Art of Original Prints*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, New York, 4 November - 20 December 2014  
*Kunstkabinet: School of London*, Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, 13 October 2014 - 8 March 2015  
*I Cheer a Dead Man's Sweetheart: 21 Painters in Britain*, De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, East Sussex, 15 March - 29 June 2014
- 2013 *Paintings & Ceramics*, Erskine Hall & Coe, London, England, 1 July - 20 July 2013  
*Radical Figures: Post War British Figurative Painting*, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, England, 16 March 2013 - 16 March 2014
- 2011-12 *The Mystery of Appearance*, Haunch of Venison, London (catalogue)  
*Loose Canon*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2010 *Modernist Realism: The School of London from Andrews to O'Donoghue*, James Hyman Gallery, London
- 2009-10 *Paint Made Flesh*, Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; traveled to The Philips Collection, Washington D.C.; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2008-09 *Goya and the Modern World*, Museo de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain (catalogue)  
*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
- 2007-08 *British Vision: Observation and Imagination in British Art 1750 - 1950*, Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium (catalogue)  
*The Mirror and the Mask: Portraiture in the Age of Picasso*, Museo Thyssen Bornemisza and Fundacion Caja, Madrid, Spain; traveled to Kimball 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, NY
- 2005-06 *Self-Portraits: 1500 - 2000*, National Portrait Gallery, London; traveled to Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
*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  
*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 the Museum of Contemporary Art, Monterrey, Mexico
- 1999 *Encounters: New Art from the Old*, National Gallery, London
- 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 Musee d'Etat - Staatsmuseum, Luxembourg; Musee Cantonal de Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland; Fundacio Caixa de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain  
*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 Fearnly Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, Norway (catalogue)  
*An American Passion: The Susan Kasen Summer and Robert D. Summer Collection of Contemporary British Painting*, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, Scotland  
*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  
*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  
*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, NY
- 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
- 1988 *Leon Kossoff/Bill Woodrow*, Saatchi Collection, London  
*The British Picture*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1987-88 *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  
*British Figurative Painting*, Pamela Auchincloss Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA  
*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; traveled to Mucsarnock, Budapest, Hungary; National Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic; Zacheta, Warsaw, Poland  
*A School of London (Six Figurative Painters)*, The British Council; traveled to Kunstneres Hus, Oslo; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebeck; Museo d'Arte Moderna, c'Persaro, 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 Maleri/13 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, Santa Barbara, 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

- 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*
- 1977 *This Knot of Life, Paintings and Drawings by British Artists, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA*
- 1976 *British Painting 1952 - 1977, Royal Academy of Arts, London*
- 1975 *The Human Clay: An Exhibition Selected by R.B. Kitaj, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London*
- 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 *Council by Patrick George, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London*
- 1972 *British Painting '74, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London*
- 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, Tate Gallery, London*
- 1964 *Survey of Figurative Painting, Hempstead Art Center, London*
- Painting and Sculpture of a Decade 54-64, Tate Gallery (Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation), London*
- 1963 *British Painting in the Sixties: An Exhibition Organized by the Contemporary Art Society, Tate Gallery/Whitechapel Art Gallery, London*
- 1961-62 *The John Moores Liverpool exhibition 1961: 3, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK*

### **Grants and Awards**

- 2014 American Academy of Arts and Letters

### **Collections**

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
 Art Gallery of Southern 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 Museum & 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, MA  
 Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
 Contemporary Art Society, London  
 Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston-Upon-Hull, England  
 Government Art Collection, London  
 Guildhall Art Gallery, London  
 Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.  
 J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles  
 Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds  
 Leicester Museum and Galleries, Leicester, England  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA  
 Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humblaek, Denmark  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles  
 Museum of London, London  
 Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany  
 Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland

National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh  
National Portrait Gallery, London  
Peter Stuyvesant Collection, London  
Rochdale Art Gallery, Lancashire  
Rooseum Center for Contemporary Art, Malmo, Sweden  
Royal College of Art Collection, London  
Rugby Museum, Warwickshire, England  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA  
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton  
Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Wiltshire, England  
Tate Gallery, London  
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
The Jewish Museum, New York  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York  
Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Lugano, Switzerland  
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Manchester  
Yale Center of British Art, New Haven, CT