

PEYTON WRIGHT

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Lawrence Calcagno

(American Painter, 1913-1993)



San Francisco-born artist Lawrence Calcagno spent the first part of his life on a ranch near Big Sur, California, teaching himself to paint from his own observations of the California landscape. Calcagno remained largely self-taught until after World War II, when he began to study painting under the G.I. Bill with the artist Clyfford Still, whose saturated palette and thick-textured linear style remained influences on Calcagno's work throughout his career.

Calcagno went on to study at the California School of Fine Art in San Francisco from 1947-1950, as well as at the Academie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris from 1950-1951 and the Instituto d'Arte Statale in Florence from 1951-1952. Calcagno's work was first shown at the Facchetti Gallery in Paris in 1952. He continued to work and study in Paris until 1955. During this time, Calcagno became acquainted with Martha Jackson, who mounted his first one-man at her New York gallery in 1955. Over the next several years,

Calcagno served as artist-in-residence at the University of Alabama, the Albright School of the University of Buffalo, the University of Illinois, and the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

From 1959-1960, Calcagno taught at New York University and showed his work at exhibitions in places as diverse as Lima, Peru, Mexico City, London, and Copenhagen. In 1965, he was awarded a Ford Foundation grant. He was also named the visiting Andrew Mellon Chair of Painting at Carnegie-Mellon University, and was also awarded fellowships by the Yaddo Foundation of Saratoga Springs, New York, the MacDowell Colony of Peterborough, New Hampshire, and the Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico.

Calcagno's work was also shown in a circulating exhibition by the Smithsonian from 1973-1975, in a touring retrospective by the Mitchell Museum in Mount Vernon, Illinois in 1982, and at solo exhibitions at the Harwood Foundation Museum of Taos and the Anita Shapolsky Gallery in New York in 1987. In 1989, he was awarded a major grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. His work is included in the public collections of several museums, including the Oakland Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

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Calcagno's work is strongly reminiscent of the California landscapes of his early life, employing a warm, saturated palette and unfocused, minimal, mostly linear forms, evoking oceanscapes and sunsets.

Sources and Further Reading:

Landauer, Susan. *The School of San Francisco Abstract Expressionism*
Albright, Thomas. *Art in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-1980*
The Art of California, Selected Works from the Collection of The Oakland Museum
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Painting and Sculpture Collection

LAWRENCE CALCAGNO showings - Catalogued Exhibitions

Special Collection

Friday, November 14, 1997 - Saturday, January 10, 1998
Anita Shapolsky Gallery, 152 East 65th Street, New York, New York 10021, United States
1992 Anderson Gallery, Buffalo, NY
1987 Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York
1984 Foundations Gallery New York, Roanoke Museum of Fine Art Roanoke, VA
1983 The New Gallery, Taos, NM
1983 New Gallery, Taos, NM Traveling Retrospective, Nine regional museums
1982 The New Gallery, Taos, NM Traveling Retrospective, Nine regional museums
1978 Stables Gallery, Taos, NM
1977 Yares Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
1976 Contemporary Art Center, Honolulu, HI
1973 -1975 Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Solo traveling exhibition: " Permutations: Earth, Sea, Sky"
1970-1972 Meredith Long Houston Galleries, Houston, TX
1968-1969 Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, HI Meredith Long Houston Galleries, Houston, TX
1967 Westmoreland County Museum of Art, Greensburg, PA
1966 Ester Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, Ca
1965 Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
1962 Martha Jackson Gallery New York, NY
1961 Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico City, Mexico
McRobert and Tunnard Gallery, London, England
1960 Martha Jackson Gallery New York, NY
Philadelphia Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
1959 Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL
University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

Solo Exhibitions:

Little Gallery, New Orleans, 1945;
Lucien Labaudt Gallery, San Francisco, 1948, 1954;
Studio Paul Facchetti, Paris, 1955;
Martha Jackson, New York, 1955, 1958, 1960, 1962;
Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo, 1956;
Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico City, 1961;

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Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, 1965;
Houston Museum of Fine Arts, 1965;
Westmoreland County Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, 1967;
Honolulu Academy of Arts, 1968, 1969;
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 1973-1975, traveling exhibition;
Contemporary Art Center, Honolulu, 1976; others.

Teaching:

New York University, New York, 1960-1961
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, 1965-1968.