

ABBY LEIGH

ABOUT

Abby Leigh is an artist based in New York City. Her work is held in public collections including the Museum of Modern Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; The Hammer Museum; and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts; among others.

ARTIST STATEMENT

While my work varies stylistically, my way of looking does not: I have very little depth perception. I see a layered world with flat, sometimes ambiguous, space. In keeping with such, I work in layers—be it layers of paint, of smoke, of graphite or peach pit soot, of whatever the work in front of me seems to demand. I start an abstract work randomly: making a mark with an axe, an eye dropper filled with sumi ink, or a line of smoke and I suddenly have somewhere to go. In my sledgehammer works, I work the surface until the markings form a coherent visual explanation to me. Often I return to the same surface and I rework it, sledgehammering, axing, sanding, buffing, scrubbing, erasing, adding, or subtracting.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *Sledgehammer Paintings*, Journal Gallery, New York, NY
2018 *Sledgehammer Paintings*, Johannes Vogt Gallery, New York, NY
2015 *Pause*, Jack Barrett Gallery, New York, NY
2014 *Abby Leigh: Works 2011/2013*, Meridian Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2012 *One Evening*, Dieu Donné Papermill, New York, NY
2009 *The Sleeper's Eye*, Betty Cuninghams Gallery, New York, NY
2007 *The Eye is the First Circle*, Betty Cuninghams Gallery, New York, NY
2007 *Inner Circle*, Evo Gallery, Santa Fe, NM (with David Maisel)
2005 *Systems*, Betty Cuninghams Gallery, New York, NY
2005 *My Personal Atlas*, Dieu Donné Papermill, New York, NY
2004 *Mon Atlas Personnel*, Galerie 14, Paris, France
2003 *Eye Sprout*, Stefan Stux Gallery, New York, NY
2003 *Ulivi*, Contemporary Exhibition Hall, Bari, Italy
2002 *Naturlig Mangfoldighed II*, Midtsønderjyllands Museum, Gram Slot, Gram, Denmark
2001 *Naturale Plurale*, Accademia dei Georgofili, Uffizi Galleries, Florence, Italy
2001 *Vies Secrètes*, Chapelle de la Persévérance, Tarascon, France
2001 *Blow-up*, Galerie 14, Paris, France
2001 *First Fruits*, Musées de Nice, Galerie de la Marine, Nice, France
2000 *Eden*, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, NY
1999 *Garden of Earthly Delights*, Galleria Il Milione, Milan, Italy

1999 *Hortus Clausus*, Palazzo Ducale, Sabbionetta, Italy, (under the patronage of the Consulate General of the United States & the U.S.I.S.)
1998 *Abby Leigh*, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, NY
1998 *Abby Leigh, Acquerelli*, Galleria del Leone, Venice, Italy
1997 *Abby Leigh*, Galleria Carlo Virgilio, Rome, Italy
1997 *Abby Leigh*, Alliance Francaise, Bologna, Italy
1996 *Aquarelles*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Issoudun, France
1995 *Abby Leigh, Aquarelles*, Chapelle de Pénitants Blancs, Vence, France
1985 *Abby Leigh, Windows*, A.M. Adler Fine Arts, New York, NY
1982 *Abby Leigh, Watercolors*, A.M. Adler Fine Arts, New York, NY
1981 *Abby Leigh*, A.M. Adler Fine Arts, New York, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 Cristin Tierney, *Influences*, curated by Cristin Tierney and Adam Sheffer, *Influencers*, with Amy Sillman, Yayoi Kusama, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Judy Pfaff, among others, New York, New York
2025 *In the Midst*, JDJ Gallery, group show curated by Jayne Johnson and Bea Scaccia including Kim Dingle, Miriam Cahn, Kiki Smith, and Nicola Tyson, among others, New York, New York
2025 *Women In Abstraction: Shaping Expressionism*, GAVLAK Gallery, group show including Yayoi Kusama, Joan Mitchell, Waneguchi Mutu, Marina Adams, Jay De Foe, Julia Von Eichel, and Vera Lutter, among others, West Palm Beach
2025 *Flora Symbolica*, curated by Jessica Orzulak and Robin Klause, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, North Carolina
2024 *Looking Back, a Retrospective of Sixty Years*, The Hunt Institute of Botanical Art, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2021 *In Vivid Color*, Leslie Feely Gallery, a group show including John Chamberlain, Josef Albers, Robert Motherwell, among others, Wainscott, New York
2020 *Uncaged*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey
2019 *Vanishing Ocular*, Rental Gallery, curated by David Salle and Nicole Wittenburg, group show including Chris Martin, Daryl Westly, and Juan Usle, among others, Easthampton, New York
2018 *The Barn Show*, curated by Johannes Vogt, group show including Maria Zeres, Kennedy Yanko, Lasy Skollie, Marc Horowitz, Petra Cortright, Walter Robinson, among others, East Hampton, New York
2018 *The Masters*, the Art Students League, curated by Jillian Russo, New York, New York
2018 *Print/Paper: American Hand Papermaking, 1960's to Today*, International Print Center, group show including Louise Bourgeois, Chuck Close, William Kentridge, Robert Gober, David Hockney, Do Ho Suh, and Ellsworth Kelly, among others, New York, New York
2014 *Attention Span*, Kathleen Cullen Fine Art, Spring Break Show, New York, New York

2013 *Coming Together: Surviving Sandy*, Industry Park, curated by Phong Bui, group show including Richard Serra, Chuck Close, and Alex Katz, among others, Brooklyn, New York

2012 *Uno Per Uno, Uno Per Tutti*, Lab 610XL, Spazio Pariggi, Treviso, Italy

2012 *Through a Papermaker's Eye*, curated by Susan Gosin, Grolier Club, New York, New York

2011 *Ossessione Verde*, Lab 610XL, curated by Peter Weiermair, with Joseph Beuys, among others, Sovramonte, Italy

2010-11 *Fireworks*, Hunterton Museum of Art, curated by Mary Birmingham, Clinton, New Jersey

2010 *Will Barnet and the Art Students League*, curated by Will Barnet, Art Students League, New York, New York

2009-10 *Out of the Vault: 95 Years of Collecting*, curated by Gail Stavitsky, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey

2009 *Party at Chris's House*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

2006 *Personal Geographies, Contemporary Artists Make Maps*, Hunter College/Times Square Gallery, New York, New York

2005 *Summer Selections*, Dieu Donné Papermill, New York, New York

2005 *Selections d'Été*, Galerie 14, Paris, France

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2004 *Bison Caravan*, Musée d'Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark

2003 *On Line*, Richard Feigen Contemporary Gallery, curated by Charlie Finch, George Negroponte, and Robert Storr, New York, New York

2003 *New Projects*, Dieu Donné Gallery, New York, New York

2003 *Bison Caravan*, Friche La Pelle De Mai, Marseille, France

2002 *New Projects*, Dieu Donné Gallery, New York, New York

2002 *Collaborations*, Dieu Donné Gallery, New York, New York

2002 *Gaggles, Flocks and Covies: Further, Exaltations and Murders: a bird show*, Ricco-Maresca Gallery, New York, New York

2000 *Art in America: 2000*, American Embassy, Bratislava, Slovakia

1999 *Recent Acquisitions*, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel

1999 *Gallery Selections*, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York

1999 *Gallery Selections*, Galleria Il Milione, Milan, Italy

1999 *The IX International Exhibit of Botanical Art*, Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1998 *Gallery Selections*, Galleria del Leone, Venice, Italy

1998 *Gallery Selections*, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York

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SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Accademia dei Georgofili, Uffizi Galleries, Florence, Italy <http://www.georgofili.it>
 Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA <https://art.famsf.org>

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY <https://albrightknox.org>
Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA <https://hammer.ucla.edu>
Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, NC
Citibank, New York, NY
Collezioni Comunali, Bari, Italy
Collezioni Comunali, Sabbioneta, Italy <http://www.iatsabbioneta.org>
Davis Museum, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass
Deloitte & Touche LLP, New York, NY
The Farnsworth Museum of Art, Rockland, ME <https://collection.farnsworthmuseum.org>
Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge,
MA <http://www.harvardartmuseums.org>
Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York, NY <https://greyartgallery.nyu.edu>
Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY <https://www.guggenheim.org>
Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX <https://www.mfah.org>
Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh,
PA <http://www.huntbotanical.org>
Industrial Solvents Corporation, Rye, NY
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel <http://www.imj.org.il/en>
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY <http://www.metmuseum.org>
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY <https://www.moma.org>
Midtsønderjyllands Museum, Gram Slot, Gram, Denmark
Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, NJ <https://www.montclairartmuseum.org>
Museum of Contemporary Art, Issoudun, France <https://www.museeissoudun.tv>
Progressive Art Collection, Mayfield Village, OH <https://www.progressive.com>
Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT <http://web.library.yale.edu>
The New York Public Library, New York, NY <https://www.nypl.org>
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY <http://collection.whitney.org>
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT <http://artgallery.yale.edu>