

KARL BENJAMIN (1925 – 2012)

A Hard Edge painter renowned for his meticulously orchestrated arrangements of color and form, Karl Benjamin was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1925. He began his undergraduate studies at Northwestern University in 1943, but his education was interrupted by service in the U.S. Navy during WWII. Benjamin moved to Southern California in 1946, where he returned to his studies with the support of the G.I. Bill. He earned his BA in English Literature, History, and Philosophy in 1949 from the University of Redlands, and began his career as a public school teacher with no intention of becoming an artist. Benjamin's pursuit of visual art began in the early 1950s, when he was required to develop art lessons for his young students. This inspired his own interest in color relationships and prompted him to pursue an MFA from the Claremont Graduate School (now Claremont Graduate University), which he obtained in 1960.

Benjamin's work blossomed amid the lively mid-twentieth century art, design, and architecture scene in Los Angeles. He had his first major solo exhibition in 1954 at the Pasadena Art Museum, now the Norton Simon Museum. Numerous exhibitions of his work during this decade culminated in his inclusion in the ground-breaking 1959 exhibition *Four Abstract Classicists*, curated by Jules Langsner. Featuring the work of Benjamin, Lorser Feitelson, John McLaughlin, and Frederick Hammersley, the exhibition opened at the San Francisco Museum of Art (now SFMOMA) and traveled to the Los Angeles County Museum in Exposition Park (now LACMA). It then traveled internationally to the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, England and Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland under the title *West Coast Hard-edge*.

The exhibition garnered national attention for Benjamin, and the artist's work was subsequently included in a number of major exhibitions, including the Whitney Museum of American Art's *Geometric Abstraction in America* in 1962 and *The Responsive Eye* at the Museum of Modern Art, NY in 1965. After decades balancing time in the studio with his work as an elementary and middle school teacher, Benjamin joined the faculty of Pomona College in Claremont, California in 1979 as artist-in-residence and was appointed the Loren Babcock Miller Professor of Fine Arts in 1991. He was granted emeritus status upon his retirement in 1994.

Karl Benjamin was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Visual Arts in both 1983 and 1989. His work has been featured in numerous museum exhibitions and is included in the public collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, NY, among many others.

Louis Stern Fine Arts is the exclusive representative of the estate of Karl Benjamin.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025-26** *The Hard-Edged Genius of Karl Benjamin: Selections from the Family Collection*, Chaffey Community Museum of Art, Ontario, California, October 11, 2025 – January 11, 2026.
- 2025** *It's All About the Benjamins*, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, August 2 – 23.
- Karl Benjamin: A Centennial Exhibition*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, September 20 – November 1.
- 2021** *Karl Benjamin: Selected Paintings 1967 – 1978*, Brian Gross Fine Art, San Francisco, CA, March 18 – May 8.
- 2019-20** *The Karl Benjamin X Comme des Garçons Project*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, CA, November 9, 2019 – January 25, 2020.
- 2018** *Karl Benjamin: Alphabet Paintings*, David Klein Gallery, Birmingham, MI, March 24 – April 28.
- 2017** *Karl Benjamin: The Alphabet*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, May 20 – July 8.
- 2016** *Close Values, The Legacy of Karl Benjamin*, Mt. San Antonio College Art Galleries, Walnut, California, September 22 – December 8.
- 2014** Karl Benjamin – The Late Paintings, Louis Stern Fine Arts, Los Angeles, California, September 6 – October 25.
- 2011** *Karl Benjamin and the Evolution of Abstraction, 1950-1980*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, September 24 – December 24.
- 2009** *Karl Benjamin: Paintings and Installation*, The Art Galleries of Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, August 31 – September 25.

- 2008** *The Vibrant Edge: Paintings of Karl Benjamin from the 1960's, 70's and 80's*, Oceanside Museum of Art, Oceanside, California, July 20 – October 19.
- 2007** *Dance the Line: Paintings by Karl Benjamin*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, September 29 – December 22.
- A Conversation With Color: Karl Benjamin, Paintings 1953 – 1995*, Claremont Museum of Art, Claremont, California, April 15 – June 25.
- 2006** *India Ink Drawings from the 1950's*, Lawrence Markey, San Antonio, Texas, May 2 – June 2.
- Alphabet Series: 1964-1965*, Brian Gross Fine Art, San Francisco, California, September 9 – October 16.
- 2005** *Karl Benjamin: Drawings from 1950 – 1965*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, March 5 – April 9.
- 2004** *Karl Benjamin: Paintings from 1950 – 1965*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, January 10 – April 10.
- 2003** *Stripe Paintings: 1979-1981*, Brian Gross Fine Art, San Francisco, California, May 22 - July 5.
- 2001** *(Mostly) Random Rectangles*, Brian Gross Fine Art, San Francisco, California, July 14 – August 24.
- Karl Benjamin: A Selected Retrospective*, Cuttress Fine Art, Pomona, California, October 9 – November 6.
- 1998** *Paintings from the 50's and 90's*, Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California. Exhibited in conjunction with *Sunshine & Noir*, Armand Hammer Museum, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

- 1995** LA Artcore, Los Angeles, California.
- 1994** *The Pomona Years: 1979-1994, A Retrospective*, Montgomery Gallery, Pomona College, Pomona, California.
- 1991-92** *Karl Benjamin: Paintings 1955-1990*, Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California, October 24 – November 30. Also shown at Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York, January 14 – February 15.
- 1991** *Recent Paintings*, Fong-Spratt Galleries, San Jose, California.
- 1990** *A Ten-Year Survey*, The Art Galleries of Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California.

Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California.
- 1990-89** *Karl Benjamin: A Retrospective, 1955-1987*, Redding Museum and Art Center, Shasta College Art Gallery, Redding, California, February 3 – March 12. Also shown at the University of the Pacific, Richard H. Reynolds Gallery, Stockton, California, March 28 – April 27; California State University Northridge, Art Galleries, Northridge, California, December 11 - February 9.
- 1988** Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California.
- 1986** *Recent Paintings*, Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

Selected Works 1979-1986, Los Angeles Municipal Art Galleries, Barnsdall Park, Los Angeles, California, January 28 - March 2.

Hemmerdinger Gallery, Palm Springs, California.

Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.

Chrysalis Gallery, Claremont, California.

- 1985** Chrysalis Gallery, Claremont, California.
- 1984** Hank Baum Gallery, San Francisco, California.
University of California, Santa Barbara, California.
- 1983** Chrysalis Gallery, Claremont, California.
Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.
- 1982** Stella Polaris Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
California State University, Bakersfield, California.
Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.
- 1981** Abraxas Gallery, Newport Beach, California.
Karl Benjamin: Paintings from the 50's, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, March 23 – April 18.
Shasta College Art Gallery, Redding, California.
Libra Gallery, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California.
Chaffey College, Alta Loma, California.
Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.
- 1980** *Karl Benjamin 1970-1980*, University of Redlands, Redlands, California.
Cheney-Cowles Museum, Spokane, Washington.
Sheehan Gallery, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington.
Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.

Tortue Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

1979 Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.

1978 Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.

Karl Benjamin: Recent Paintings, Tortue Gallery, Santa Monica, California,
November 17 - December 30.

1977 Tortue Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

1975 Chaffey College, Alta Loma, California.

Tortue Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

1972 University of Redlands, Redlands, California.

1971 William Sawyer Gallery, San Francisco, California.

Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Fullerton, California.

1970 Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jefferson Gallery, Los Angeles, California.

San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, California.

1969 Mount San Antonio College, Walnut, California.

1968 Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California.

Henri Gallery, Washington D.C.

1966 Hollis Galleries, San Francisco, California.

- 1965** Esther-Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
Jefferson Gallery, La Jolla, California.
Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California.
- 1964** Esther-Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
Hollis Galleries, San Francisco, California.
- 1963** Wooden Horse Gallery, Laguna Beach, California.
Esther-Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
- 1962** Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California.
Esther-Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
- 1961** San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, California.
Bolles Gallery, San Francisco, California.
- 1960** Esther-Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
Lang Gallery, Scripps College, Claremont, California.
- 1959** Esther-Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California.
- 1958-59** *Paintings by Karl Benjamin: Abstract Classicism*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California, December 7 – January 4.
- 1958** Occidental College, Los Angeles, California.
- 1956** Jack Carr Gallery, Pasadena, California.
University of Redlands, Redlands, California.

- 1955** Jack Carr Gallery, Pasadena, California.
- 1954** Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California.
- 1953** Claremont Book and Art Gallery, Claremont, California.
University of Redlands, Redlands, California.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** *Complications in Color*, Claremont Lewis Museum of Art, Claremont, California, August 2 – November 16, 2024.
- 2024** *A Survey Exhibition: Louis Stern Fine Arts Through the Decades*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, January 27 – March 9, 2024.
- 2023-24** *Tracing the Edge*, The Benton Museum of Art, Pomona College, Claremont, California, August 23, 2023 – January 7, 2024
- 2023** *In the Round*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, July 15 – August 19, 2023.
- 2022** *Formalize: Strategies for Abstraction*, Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery, Santa Barbara, California, April 29 – July 3, 2022.
- 2021-22** *Benjamin, Maloof & McIntosh*, Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood, California, October 30, 2021 – January 8, 2022.
- Break + Bleed*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, California, June 4, 2021 – April 3, 2022.
- 2020-21** *In the Flow*, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, September 12, 2020 – March 14, 2021.
- 2020** *The Responsive Eye Revisited: Then, Now, and In-Between*, Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, New York, January 14 – February 15, 2020.
- Shaping Wood, Shaping Artists*, the Ontario Museum of History & Art, organized by the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation, Ontario, California, January 23 – March 29, 2020.
- Valley of Gold: Southern California and the Phantasmagoric*, Kasmin

Gallery, New York, New York, March 5 – April 11, 2020.

2019-20 *Bold Abstractions: Paintings from the Thoma Collection*, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, Illinois, October 11, 2019 – January 26, 2020.

2018-19 *Collecting on the Edge*, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University, September 15, 2018 – May 4, 2019.

2018 *California: North and South*, Heather James Fine Art, San Francisco, California, June 16 – September 30.

Intersecting at the Edge: Karl Benjamin, Heather Gwen Martin and Eric Zammitt, Claremont Museum of Art, Claremont, California, July 13 – September 16.

1960s California Hard-Edge, Flowers Gallery, London, July 4 – September 8.

2015 *Post-Op: 'The Responsive Eye' 50 Years After*, David Richard Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 27 – April 12.

2014 *Postwar Modernism of the West*, Calabi Gallery, Santa Rosa, CA, November 8 – December 27

Recent Acquisitions, Honolulu Museum of Art, Honolulu, Hawaii, December 4, 2014 – February 15, 2015.

2012 *Pasadena to Santa Barbara: A Selected History of Art in Southern California, 1951-1969*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California, February 11 – May 6.

The 186th Annual Exhibition, National Academy Museum, New York, New York, January 25 - April 29.

2011-12 *Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los

Angeles, California, December 15 – February 12.

Artistic Evolution: Southern California Artists at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, October 2 – January 14.

Pacific Standard Time: Crosscurrents in L.A. Painting and Sculpture 1945- 1970, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California, October 1 – February 5. *Travels to Martin-Gropius-Bau*, Berlin, March 15 – June 10, 2012.

The House That Sam Built: Sam Maloof and Art in the Pomona Valley, 1945-1985, Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California, September 24 - January 30.

2011 *Color Field Revisited*, Loretta Howard Gallery, New York, New York, June 4 – July 25.

High Fidelity: Selections from the 1960s and 1970s, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, California, May 28 – September 5.

Southern California Hard Edge: Karl Benjamin, Lorser Feitelson, Helen Lundeberg, John McLaughlin, Art Paris, Louis Stern Fine Arts exhibiting, Paris, France, March 31 – April 3.

Structured Color, D. Wigmore Fine Art, New York, New York, February 8 – April 22.

Softcore / Hard Edge, The Art Galleries of Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, August 29 – September 23.

2010-11 *Karl Benjamin: Under the Influence*, Royale Projects, Indian Wells, California, November 30 – January 31.

Softcore Hard Edge, The Art Gallery of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, September 10 – January 22.

- 2010** *Wall-to-Wall*, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, California, June 5 – August 14.
- 2009** *California Calling: Works from Santa Barbara Collections, 1948 – 2008*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California, Part 1: July 18 – December 27.
- Explorations in Black and White: The 1930s through the 1960s*, D. Wigmore Fine Art, New York, New York, October 1 – December 23.
- Looking Forward Looking Back: The Collection in Context*, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, April 4 – June 7.
- 2008-09** *Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art*, Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, September 21 – January 4.
- 2007-09** *Birth of the Cool; California Art, Design and Culture at Midcentury*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California; Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts; Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California; Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri; The Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2008** *Las Vegas Collects Contemporary*, Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 23 – October 26.
- 2007-08** *Burgoyne Diller and Hard-Edge Abstraction: Underpinnings and Continuity*, Spanierman Modern, New York, New York, November 8 – January 5.
- 2007** *After Image: Op Art of the 1960s*, Jacobson Howard Gallery, New York, New York, March 8 – April 28.
- Optic Nerve: Perceptual Art of the 1960s*, Columbus Museum of Art,

Columbus, Ohio, February 16 – June 17.

Painting<=>Design, Peggy Phelps and East Galleries, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, January 8 – 26.

Freedom to Experiment, American Abstraction, 1945-1975: Expressionism, Optical Art & Hard Edge, D. Wigmore Fine Art, New York, New York.

2006 *2006 Peace Tower* (recreation of 1966 original) in conjunction with the Whitney Biennial *Day for Night*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York, March 2 – May 28.

Driven to Abstraction: Southern California and the Non-Objective World, 1900 – 1980, (curated by Peter Frank), Riverside Museum, Riverside, California, August 26 – October 14.

Geometric Abstraction: Two Generations, D. Wigmore Fine Art, New York, New York, February 15 – May 15.

2005-06 *Collection Histories/Collective Memories: California Modern*, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California, February 2 – September 24.

2005 *Evolution in Abstraction: Antecedents + Descendents*, D. Wigmore Fine Art, New York, New York, April 15 – May 31.

The First 80 Years, Los Angeles Art Association, West Hollywood, California, August 27 – September 24.

Twenty Years and Counting: An Exhibition Celebrating the dA Center for the Arts, dA Center for the Arts, Pomona, California, April 10 – May 22.

2004-05 *Human Presence: Works from the Museum's Collection (The Geometry of Color/The Singular Body)*, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California, December 4 – July 24.

The Los Angeles School (curated by Dave Hickey), Ben Maltz Gallery, Otis College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, November 13 – January 22.

2004 *Daimler Chrysler Collection: Minimalism and After III*, Daimler Chrysler Contemporary, Potsdamer Platz Berlin, September 3 – November 28.

The LA That Influenced My Eye (curated by Barry Berkus), Sullivan Goss: An American Gallery, Santa Barbara, California, July 22 – September 22.

Conversations in the Collection: A Selection from the Permanent Collection, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California, August 14 – September 12.

Beyond Geometry: Experiments in Form 1940s –1970s, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, June 13 – October 3.

2003 *(Un)Taped: An Exhibition of Hard-Edge Paintings by Karl Benjamin and Mark L. Emerson*, Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, California, September 20 – November 8.

Another Abstract Classicist, University of Southern California Fisher Gallery, Los Angeles, November 29 – February 16, 2003.

2002 *Ideal Abstraction 1955-1965: Karl Benjamin and Norman Bluhm*, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York, May 10 – July 10.

Hard Edge and Op Prints from the 70s to Present, Cirrus Gallery, Los Angeles, California, April 6 – August 10.

2001 *Four Abstract Classicists: Karl Benjamin, Lorser Feitelson, Frederick Hammersley and John McLaughlin*, Gary Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York, June 1 – August 25.

2000 *Vertical Chords*, Harris Gallery, University of La Verne, La Verne, California, January 18 – February 11.

Four Abstract Classicists Plus One, Tobey Moss Gallery, Los Angeles, California, January 15 – February 25.

1998 *Elusive Paradise: Los Angeles Art from the Permanent Collection*, Museum of Contemporary Art: Geffen Contemporary, Los Angeles, California.

Convergences, The Art Galleries at Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, California.

1997 *Eyedazzlers*, University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Generational Abstractions, Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

Geometric Abstraction 1937-1997, Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York.

1996-97 *On the Edge of America: California Modernist Art*, Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles, California, November 8 – March 1.

1996 *California Focus*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California.

California Artists: Genres of the 20th Century, Henley Gallery, Chapman University, Orange, California.

Some Grids: The Theme of the Grid in 20th Century Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California.

1993 *Four Abstract Classicists: West Coast Hard Edge*, Modernism Gallery, San Francisco, California.

California: Art from the 1930s to the Present, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California.

3 Artists: Common Origins, Different Paths, Carnegie Art Museum, Oxnard, California. Also shown at Kemper Gallery, Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California.

Choice Encounters, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California.

Journey Into Art, LA Artcore 5th Annual Awards Benefit, Los Angeles, California.

1992 Phinney Gallery, Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California.

Selections from the Permanent Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California.

Post War Geometric Concepts, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, New York.

1990 *Geometric Abstraction*, Marc Richards Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

Karl Benjamin, Steve Schlichtenmyer, Art Gallery at The Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California, January – February.

Snyder Fine Art, New York, New York.

1990-92 *Turning the Tide: Early Los Angeles Modernists: 1920-1956*, Laguna Art Museum, California. Also shown at Oakland Art Museum, California; Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio, Texas; Nora Eccles Harrison Art Museum, Logan, Utah; Santa Barbara Museum of Fine Art, California; Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California, July 13, 1990 – January 20, 1992.

1989-90 *Blueprints for Modern Living*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California.

1989 *Then and Now*, Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica, California.

A Decade of Abstraction, Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington.

1988 *The Linear Thread*, Irvine Fine Arts Center, Irvine, California.

1987 *California's Painting from the 60's*, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Contemporary Prints by West Coast Artists, Francine Seders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.

Pomona College Centennial Faculty Exhibition, Montgomery Gallery, Pomona College, Pomona, California.

Insights, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California.

1986-87 *Four Abstract Classicists: A Look at 1950s California Hard-Edge Painting*, R.C. Erpf Gallery, New York, New York, December - January.

1985-86 *Ten California Colorists*, Shasta College Art Gallery, Redding Museum & Art Center, Redding, California. Also shown at San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, California; Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California; Montgomery Galleries, Pomona College, Claremont, California; University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

1985 *Color Forms*, Gallery at the Plaza, Security Pacific National Bank, Los Angeles, California.

Drawings from the David Nellis Collection, California State University, Los Angeles, California.

1984 *Color, Color, Color*, Henry Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

A Focus on California: Selections from the Permanent Collection, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California.

The Twentieth Century: The SFMMA Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California.

1983 *Contemporary American Printmaking*, Shasta College Art Gallery, Redding, California.

The Museum Collection, The Art Museum of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz, California.

1982 *Color in Contemporary Painting*, Henry Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

Los Angeles Hard Edge, Tobey Moss Gallery, Los Angeles, California. Also shown at Fine Arts Gallery, Laguna Beach, California.

1981 *California Artists: 1940-1980*, Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California.

Pacific Coast Museum Selections, National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC.

1980 *West Coast: Art for the Vice-President's House* (paintings selected from West Coast Museum Collections), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Also shown at the Vice-President's residence, Washington DC.

1979 *Black and White Are Colors*, Montgomery & Lang Galleries, Pomona College and Scripps College, Claremont, California.
Art, Inc.: American Paintings from Corporate Collections, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama. Also shown at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.; Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana; San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California.

Los Angeles Abstract Painting, University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Also shown at University Art Gallery, University of California, Riverside, California.

- 1978** *A Painting Show*, Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, California.
- 1977** *California: 5 Footnotes to Modern Art History*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, January 18 – April 24.
- International Art Fair*, Basel, Switzerland, and Cologne, West Germany.
- Four From California*, Dorothy Rosenthal Gallery, Chicago, Illinois.
- Archives of American Art: California Collecting*, Oakland Art Museum, California. Also shown at Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California.
- Three From California*, Francine Selders Gallery, Seattle, Washington.
- Los Angeles Hard Edge: The Fifties and the Seventies*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California.
- 35th Biennial Exhibition of American Painting*, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.
- Southern California Festival of the Arts*, Laguna Beach, California.
- 1976** *Paintings and Sculpture in California: The Modern Era*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Also shown at the National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington DC.
- 1971** *Pacific Cities Loan Exhibition*, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand.
- 1969** *Los Angeles Annual Art Exhibition*, Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, California.
- 1968** *Paintings from the 50's and 60's from the Collection of Gifford and Joann Philips*, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California.

- 1967** *30th Biennial Exhibition of American Painting*, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- Contemporary American Painting*, The White House, Washington D.C.
- California Art Festival*, Lytton Center for the Visual Arts, Los Angeles, California.
- 1966** 85th Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California.
- American Painting*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia.
- Contemporary California Art from the Lytton Collection*, Lytton Center for the Visual Arts, Los Angeles, California.
- California Painters and Sculptors Invitational*, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California.
- Drawings*, Gallery Dache, New York.
- Peace Tower*, Los Angeles, California.
- 1965** *The Responsive Eye*, Museum of Modern Art, New York. Also shown at St. Louis Art Museum, Missouri; Seattle Art Museum, Washington; Pasadena Art Museum, California; Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland.
- Art Across America*, Mead Corporation, New York. Also shown at M. Knoedler & Co., New York; Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio; Cleveland Institute of Art, Ohio; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, Ohio; Isaac Delgado Museum, New Orleans, Louisiana; Commercial Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- The Colorists: 1950-1965*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San

Francisco, California.

California Artists, Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, Texas.

Survey of Contemporary Art, J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky.

Denver Museum Annual, Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado.

1964 *New Accessions, USA*, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

California Hard Edge Painting, Pavilion Gallery, Balboa, California, March 11 – April 12.

Selections from the Asher Collection, University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Painted Sculpture, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, California.

1963 *Liturgical Art*, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, California.

1962 *50 California Artists*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Also shown at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa.

Geometric Abstraction in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York. Also shown at Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts.

The Artist's Environment: West Coast, Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, Texas. Also shown at Oakland Art Museum, California; Wight Art Galleries, University of California, Los Angeles.

1961-62 *Pacific Profile*, Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California. Circulated in

Western States by Western Association of Art Museums.

1961 *Paintings from the Pacific: United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand*, Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand.

California Artists, Carnegie Mellon Art Gallery, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1960 *West Coast Hard Edge*, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England. Also shown at Queen's College, Belfast, Ireland.

Purist Painting, American Federation of Arts, White Art Museum, Ithaca, New York. Also shown at Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota; J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, Kentucky; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh; North Carolina, Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Columbus, Ohio.

Annual Exhibition, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California.

1st Annual Painting and Sculpture Exhibition, La Jolla Art Museum, La Jolla, California.

1959 *Four Abstract Classicists*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California (catalogue) Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England, Queen's University, Belfast Ireland (catalogue)

New Talent, American Federation of Arts, Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, Kansas. Also shown at Time, Inc., New York, New York; Moody Gallery of Art, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Howard University, Washington D.C.

California Painters under 35, Wight Art Galleries, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California.

1949-1959: A Decade in the Contemporary Galleries, Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California.

Kaleidoscope, Taos, New Mexico.

1958 *Arts of Southern California II: Painting*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California.

1957 *California Drawings*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California, August 7 – September 28.

1956 *Art in Architecture*, Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, Los Angeles, California.

Eighth San Gabriel Valley Artists Exhibition, Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California, October 7 – November 18.

1955 *Faculty Exhibition*, Pasadena School of Fine Arts, Pasadena, California.

10th Annual Newport Harbor Art Exhibit, Newport Beach, California.

1954 *14th Annual Invitational Art Exhibit*, Chaffey Art Association, Ontario, California.

Artists You Should Know, Los Angeles Art Association, Los Angeles, California.

39th Annual California Art Exhibit, San Bernardino, California.

1953 Falk-Raboff Gallery, Los Angeles, California.

5th Annual San Gabriel Valley Artists Exhibition, Pasadena Art Museum, Pasadena, California.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland
Cheney Cowles State Museum, Spokane, Washington
Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California
Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado
Fine Arts Gallery of San Diego, San Diego, California
Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California
Henry Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California
La Jolla Museum of Art, La Jolla, California
Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California
Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut Creek, California
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, California
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada
Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, California
Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University, Logan, Utah
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina
Norton Simon Museum of Art, Pasadena, California
Oakland Museum, Oakland, California
Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California
Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, California
Pitzer College, Claremont, California
Pomona College, Claremont, California
San Diego Museum of Art, Balboa Park, California
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California
Santa Cruz County Museum of Art, Santa Cruz, California
Scripps College, Claremont, California
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
Sheldon Memorial Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska
Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma, Washington
University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, Iowa
University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, California
University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico
University of Redlands, Redlands, California
Utah Museum of Fine Arts, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York

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- 1960** Alloway, Lawrence. "Classicism or Hard-Edge?" *Art International* Vol. IV, 2-3, page 60.
- 1959** Langsner, Jules. "Four Abstract Classicists." (catalogue) Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California.
- 1956** Langsner, Jules. "Art news from Los Angeles." *Artnews*. May.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1925** Born in Chicago, Illinois, December 29.
- 1943-46** Serves in the U.S. Navy.
- 1946** Moves to Redlands, California.
- 1949** Marries Beverly Paschke, January.
- 1949** Earns Bachelor's degree in English Literature, History & Philosophy from University of Redlands, California.
- 1949** Begins teaching a sixth grade class at Cedar Street Elementary School in Bloomington, California.
- 1950** First daughter Beth Marie is born September 19.
- 1950** After becoming interested in the art that his students created, Benjamin makes initial attempts at his own paintings. Working in isolation, he replicates artistic styles he admires, seeking inspiration from art books and magazines.
- 1951** Moves to Claremont, California with his family. Attends Claremont Graduate School at Scripps College with assistance from the G.I. Bill.
- 1953** Resumes teaching in Chino, California; teaches elementary school continuously until 1979.
- 1953** Second daughter Kris Ellen is born March 25.
- 1954** First major solo show at the Pasadena Art Museum. The exhibition features abstract works inspired by nature, as well as modernist landscapes and still-lives. Benjamin is later inspired to move towards geometric abstraction in his work.
- 1955** First son Bruce Lincoln is born March 12.
- 1955** Moves into his current home in Claremont, a mid-century modern post and beam house designed by Fred McDowell.
- 1955-1959** Benjamin's work becomes less referential and more abstract as he integrates architectural and biomorphic forms and hard lines. Period includes "Totem Groups" and "Plant Forms" series.

- 1959** Featured in seminal exhibition "*Four Abstract Classicists*" at Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Curated by Jules Langsner, the show also included artists Lorser Feitelson, Frederick Hammersley, and John McLaughlin. Langsner coins the term "Hard Edge" to refer to the forms apparent in the work of the Abstract Classicists. The exhibition opens at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, travels to the Los Angeles County Museum, and later to London and Belfast under a different title, "*West Coast Hard Edge*."
- 1960** After a five-year period of part-time attendance, Benjamin earns a Master's of Art from Claremont Graduate School. Artist and CGS Professor Jean Ames proves integral to his studies.
- 1960-61** "Tape-Grid" and "Vertical Stripes" series.
- 1961-62** "Floating Structures" series.
- 1964-65** "Alphabet" series.
- 1966-73** Elaborate grid paintings using triangle patterns.
- 1974-75** Simplified rectangular forms featuring unique color palettes.
- 1976-81** Stripes.
- 1979-96** Professor of Art and Resident Artist of drawing and painting at Pomona College and Claremont Graduate University.
- 1981-86** VC Patterns
- 1983** Awarded National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Visual Arts.
- 1988-89** *Karl Benjamin: A Retrospective, 1955-1987* opens at the Shasta College Art Gallery, Redding, California, and travels to University of the Pacific, Stockton, California, and California State University Northridge.
- 1989** Awarded National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Visual Arts.
- 1990** Major solo exhibition *A Ten-Year Survey* at The Art Galleries of Claremont Graduate School.
- 1991-92** Major solo exhibition *Karl Benjamin: Paintings 1955-1990* organized by Ruth Bachofner Gallery, Santa Monica and Snyder Fine Art, New York.
- 1996-2012** Professor Emeritus, Claremont Graduate University.

- 2007-09** Prominently featured in national traveling exhibition organized by the Orange County Museum of Art, "*Birth of the Cool: California Art, Design and Culture at Mid-Century.*"
- 2007** Major solo exhibition *Dance the Line: Paintings by Karl Benjamin* at Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood.
Major solo exhibition *A Conversation With Color: Karl Benjamin, Paintings 1953 – 1995* at Claremont Museum of Art.
- 2008** Major solo exhibition *The Vibrant Edge: Paintings of Karl Benjamin from the 1960's, 70's and 80's* at the Oceanside Museum of Art.
- 2009** Major solo exhibition *Karl Benjamin: Paintings and Installation* at The Art Galleries of Claremont Graduate University.
- 2011** Major solo exhibition *Karl Benjamin and the Evolution of Abstraction, 1950-1980* at Louis Stern Fine Arts, West Hollywood.
- 2011-12** Extensively featured in the Getty initiative *Pacific Standard Time: Art in Los Angeles, 1945-1980*.
Exhibits in major shows including *Pacific Standard Time: Crosscurrents in L.A. Painting and Sculpture, 1945-1970* at the J. Paul Getty Museum and Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, *Artistic Evolution: Southern California Artists at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County*, and *Civic Virtue: The Impact of the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and the Watts Towers Arts Center*.
- 2012** Exhibits in *The 186th Annual Exhibition* at the National Academy Museum of New York.
Exhibits in *Pasadena to Santa Barbara: A Selected History of Art in Southern California, 1951-1969* at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.
Dies July 26, 2012 in Claremont, California.
- 2013** Exhibits in *Four Abstract Classicists* at Los Angeles County Museum of Art (December 21, 2013 – June 29, 2014)
- 2014** Major solo exhibition *Karl Benjamin - The Late Paintings* at Louis Stern Fine Arts, Los Angeles.
Exhibits in *Recent Acquisitions 2013-2014* at The Honolulu Museum of Art (December 4, 2014 – February 15, 2015).
- 2015** Exhibits in *The Triumph of Love: Beth Rudin DeWoody Collects* at the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida. (February 7 – May 3).