

FREDERICK WIGHT (1902-1986)

Frederick Wight was born on June 1, 1902, in New York, New York, the only child of Carol Wight, an English and Classics professor, and Alice Stallknect, an artist. The Wight Family moved throughout New York state and Vermont before settling in Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1910.

Wight earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Virginia in 1923, then traveled to Paris to seriously pursue his artistic education, studying at the Académie Julian from 1923-1925. Upon his return to Cape Cod, he supported himself painting portraits of figures in art and writing circles such as Mary Quinn Sullivan, Eskine Caldwell, James Branch Campbell, Edward Seidel Canby, Jacques Lipchitz, and Lyonel Feininger, as well as local Cape Cod captains. Wight published his first novel, "South" in 1935, to encouraging critical attention.

From 1936-1938, Wight traveled to England and the South of France with his new wife, Joan Elizabeth Bingham. The experience made a strong impression on Wight, inspiring a series of colorful landscape paintings and a brief experimental period, which he termed "Semi-Surrealist." They moved to Chatham, Massachusetts in 1938 and the couple's only child, George Frederick Wight, was born in 1942.

Wight joined the Navy during World War II and worked overseas as an illustrator and editor of the amphibious forces' newspaper. He made drawings of Normandy beaches in preparation for the 1944 invasion landings, in which he later participated. Later, he worked for the Naval Division of Office of Strategic Services in London.

Wight rejoined his family in 1945 in Chatham and enrolled in Paul Sach's museum training program at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, graduating with a Master's degree in 1946. After graduation, he was hired at Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art as director of education and later served as Associate Director of the Institute. During his six years there, he mounted several major solo exhibitions of work by Louis Sullivan, Jose Clemente Orozco, Le Corbusier, and Walter Gropius.

In 1953, Wight became Director of the new art gallery at the University of California, Los Angeles, concurrent with a teaching position in the art department. He went on to serve as the department chairman. Wight established the Art Council, a private support group of interested community members whose goal was to provide additional funding for the Art Gallery's programs. He also helped to establish the University's Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden and the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts.

In 1973, Wight retired from his position at UCLA. Upon his retirement, the University Art Gallery was renamed the Frederick S. Wight Art Gallery. His retirement allowed him to focus solely on his painting and artistic production, which he practiced with fervor until his death on July 26, 1986.

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

1931 New York, New York, Art Center, *Paintings of Cape Cod Captains, Clipper Ship Masters, and Fishermen*, January 19 – 31.

1932 New York, New York, Marie Sterner Galleries.

1933 New York, New York, New School for Social Research, exhibition of Crucifixion triptych, unveiled January 16. Traveled to Chatham, Massachusetts, Methodist-Episcopal Church, unveiled August 19, 1936.

1935 New York, New York, Kleemann Galleries, *Paintings of the South*, October.

1956 San Francisco, California, DeYoung Memorial Museum, *Paintings by Frederick Wight*, June 9 – July 8.

Pasadena, California, Pasadena Art Museum, *Paintings by Frederick S. Wight*, August 17 – September 16.

1959 San Diego, California, Fine Arts Gallery in Balboa Park, *Paintings by Frederick S. Wight*, October – November 1.

1960 Los Angeles, California, Esther Robles Gallery, *Frederick Wight: Recent Paintings*, October 24 – November 12.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, New Mexico Museum of Art, March 30 – May 1.

Las Vegas, New Mexico, Highlands University Art Gallery, July 8 – 26.

Albuquerque, New Mexico, Jonson Art Gallery, University of New Mexico, August – August 27; Roswell, New Mexico, Roswell Museum and Art Center, September.

1961 Long Beach, California, Long Beach Museum of Art, opened June 4.

1962 Los Angeles, California, Esther Robles Gallery, closed November 24.

1963 Ankrum Gallery, Los Angeles, California

1964 Ankrum Gallery, Los Angeles, California

1965 Los Angeles, California, Ankrum Gallery, February – March 1.

1966 Ankrum Gallery, Los Angeles, California

- 1967** Ankrum Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1968** Chicago, Illinois, Kovler Gallery, *Paintings by Frederick Wight*, March.
Los Angeles, California, Ankrum Gallery, *Frederick Wight*, April – May 18.
- 1969** Palm Springs, California, Palm Springs Desert Museum, *Drawings by Frederick Wight*, January 10 – February 2. Traveled to Los Angeles, California, Thorne Hall, Occidental College, February 28 – March 20; Colorado Springs, Colorado, Fine Arts Center, May 4 – 31.
- 1971** Los Angeles, California, Ankrum Gallery, April 19 – May 1.
- 1972** Los Angeles, California, Ankrum Gallery, November 27 – December 9.
- 1978** Stamford, Connecticut, Stamford Museum and Nature Center, *Lifelines: Two Generations*, two-person exhibition with Alice Stallknecht, January 8 – 31.
- 1978** New York, New York, Gloria Cortella Gallery, February – March 3.
Palm Springs, California, Palm Springs Desert Museum, *Frederick Wight: Recent Paintings*, March 29 – May 7.
- 1981** Paris, France, Galerie d'Art International, *Frederick S. Wight: l'oeuvre récente*, April 7 – 28. Traveled to Los Angeles, California, Municipal Art Gallery at Barnsdall Park as *California Cycles*, October 13 – November 15.
- 1982** Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *New Paintings of Ponds, Paintings, and Galaxies*, May 11 – June 5.
- 1983** Chicago, Illinois, Galeries d'Art International, March 25 – May 4.
Los Angeles, California, Angelus Plaza Gallery, *Florence Arnold and Frederick Wight: Honors Art Show*, October – November 11.
- 1984** Los Angeles, California, Newspace, January 10 – February 4.
- 1985** Los Angeles, California, Newspace, January 8 – February 2.
- 1987** Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Frederick Wight: The Last Paintings*, September 15 – October 10.
- 1989** Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Frederick Wight: Paintings of Gardens*, closed February 4.

San Francisco, California, 871 Fine Arts, *The Luminist Landscape*, April – May 3.

1991 Los Angeles, California, Frederick S. Wight Galleries, University of California Los Angeles, *Sudden Nature: The Art of Frederick S. Wight 1902-1986*, January 15 – March 3.

Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Alice Stallknecht and Frederick Wight*, February 5 – 2.

1992 Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Frederick Wight: Substance of the Moon*, June 16 – August 1.

1993 *Sun, Moon and Stars*, Newspace, Los Angeles, California

1999 Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Frederick Wight: Painting Over Time*, December 1999 – January 15.

2005 West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Frederick Wight: Visions of California*, April 16 – July 16.

2008 West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Seeing the Light: Postmodern Luminous Landscapes by Frederick S. Wight*, April 12 – June 7.

2011 West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Radiant Skies: California Paintings by Frederick Wight*, January 8 – March 5.

2015 New York, New York, Gerald Peters Gallery, *Frederick Wight: Transcendental Landscapes*, December 7, 2015 – January 22, 2016.

2022 West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Frederick Wight: Time and Place*, June 25 – September 3.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1932 Los Angeles, California, Los Angeles Museum of History, Science, and Art, *Olympic competition and exhibition of art*, July 30 – August 31.

1935 Wellfleet, Massachusetts, Ann Hamilton Sayre Gallery, opened August 4.

1957 Los Angeles, California, University of California Los Angeles, *10th Anniversary of the Westwood Art Association*, March 17 – 31.

Los Angeles, California, Los Angeles Art Association, [*“Artists whose works have been televised on KRCA’s ‘Feitelson on Art’ program”*], April – May 3.

1959 Los Angeles, California, Esther Robles Gallery, *Kaleidoscope, 1959*, April – May 2.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, Museum of New Mexico Art Gallery, *1959 Southwestern Artists Biennial Exhibition*, May 31 – June 28.

1962 Newport Beach, California, Balboa Pavilion Gallery, *Fine Arts Patrons of Newport Harbor Show*, October 14 – November 16.

Long Beach, California, Long Beach Museum of Art, *Director’s Choice: Lorser Feitelson, Frederick Wight, James Jarvaise*.

1963 Long Beach, California, Long Beach Museum of Art, *Arts of Southern California XIII: Painting*, June 2 – 30.

San Francisco, California, Bolles Gallery, *California Figurative Artists*, July.

1964 Long Beach, California, Long Beach Museum of Art, *Contemporary Painting from the Collection of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Los Angeles*, closed April 26. Traveled to San Bernardino, California, San Bernardino City Cultural Center, November 8 – December 6, 1964; Ventura, California, Ventura Savings and Loan, closed July 12, 1965.

Phoenix, Arizona, Phoenix Art Museum, *Painters from the Ankrum Gallery*, June – July.

Long Beach, California, Long Beach Museum of Art, *Annual Art Rental Gallery Exhibition*, October 4 – 25.

1965 Laguna Beach, California, Laguna Beach Art Association, *The Figure: West Coast*, opened March 7.

1982 Downey, California, Downey Museum of Art, *Cactus and Palms*, January – February 28.

Palm Springs, California, Palm Springs Desert Museum, *The West As Art: Changing Perceptions of Western Art in California Collections*, February 24 – May 30.

Paris, France, Museum of the City of Paris, *Americans in Paris*, December.

1984 Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *There Is No Finish Line*, July – August 11.

Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation at Mayor Tom Bradley's Office, City Hall, Los Angeles, California

1985 Los Angeles, California, Los Angeles Design Center, *To the Astonishing Horizon*, February.

Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Newspace Tenth Anniversary Thank You Show*, July 9 – August 3.

Landscape, Seascape, Cityscape, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, Louisiana

Palms, Museum of Natural History, San Diego, California

1986 Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Dark Natures*, January 7 – February 1.

Santa Monica, California, USC Atelier, *Turning to the Landscape*, December 1986 – January 11, 1987.

1987 Glendale, California, Brand Library Galleries, *Confronting Cancer Through Art*, May – June 2.

The Circle in Art, Love Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

Nature, G.W. Einstein Gallery, New York, New York

Art in the Hall, West Hollywood City Hall, West Hollywood, California

New York, New York, Chemical Gallery, *The Great Outdoors*, August – September 2.

1988 Palm Springs, Palm Springs Desert Museum, *Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Collection*, May – June 5. Extended as *California Artists from the*

Frederick R. Weisman Collection, September 19 – November 15 and January 20 – February 25, 1989.

Changing Visions: California Then and Now, Pacific Bell, San Ramon, California

1999 Los Angeles, California, Mountain View Memorial Gallery, *The Decade Show: The Pasadena Art Museum 1949-1959 Revisited*, closed June 3.

2000 Greenville, North Carolina, Greenville County Museum of Art, *Southern Scene*, November 15, 2000 – May 6, 2001. Extended through September 16, 2001.

2005 Barnstable, Massachusetts, Cahoon Museum of American Art, *Treasures from the Towns*, March 15 – April 23.

2006 Los Angeles, California, Newspace, *Good to Go*, October – December 16.

2010 Oxnard, California, Carnegie Art Museum, *Elements of Nature: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*, March 13 – May 23. Traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana, Contemporary Art Center, November 6, 2010 – February 27, 2011; Melbourne, Florida, Brevard Art Museum, April 2 – June 19.

West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Gallery Selections 2010*, September 10 –21.

2010 Los Angeles, California, Autry National Center, *Skydreamers: A Saga of Air and Space*, December 10, 2010 – April 17, 2011.

2011 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Louisiana Art and Science Museum, *Forces of Nature: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*, October 21, 2011 – January 15, 2012.

2014 Ketchum, Idaho, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, *Western Light, Ecstatic Landscapes*, June 6 – August 16.

2015 Hyde Park, New York, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, *The Spirit of the Gift: Gifts of State and Affection*, April 25, 2015 – January 3, 2016.

Miami, Florida, Mana Wyn, *Made in California: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*, December 1 – 6.

Oxnard, California, Carnegie Art Museum, *Environmental Impact: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*, December 13, 2015 – February 21, 2016.

- 2016** Chatham, Massachusetts, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, *Crucifixion: Frederick S. Wight and other 20th Century Artists*, May – September 5.
- 2017** West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Summer Selections*, August 10 – September 26.
- 2021** Los Angeles, California, Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, *Environmental Reflections: Contemporary Art from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*, August 24 – December 5.
- 2022** West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Transcendent*, curated by Michael Duncan, December 10, 2022 – January 28, 2023.
- 2024** West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *A Survey Exhibition: Louis Stern Fine Arts Through the Decades*, January 27 – March 9.
- 2025** West Hollywood, California, Louis Stern Fine Arts, *Perspective and Plane*, November 15, 2025 – January 10, 2026.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Chatham Historical Society, Chatham, Massachusetts

The Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, New York

The Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, California

Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, North Carolina

Kaufman and Broad, Inc., Los Angeles, California

Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California

National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California

Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California

Texas Commerce Bank, Dallas, Texas

UC Irvine Langson Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, California

UCLA Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles, California

UCLA Wight Gallery, Los Angeles, California

Union Bank, Los Angeles, California

University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa City, Iowa

The Wight Trust, Los Angeles, California

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CATALOGUES

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Louis Stern Fine Arts. *Seeing the Light- Postmodern Luminous Landscapes by Frederick S. Wight*. West Hollywood, California: Louis Stern Fine Arts, 2008. (Essay by Michael Duncan)

ARTICLES

Folkart, Burt A. "Built Prized Campus Collection: UCLA Art Professor Wight Dies." *Los Angeles Times*, July 29, 1986.

Wilson, William. "Frederick S. Wight: Painterly Punch Lines." *Los Angeles Times*, August 3, 1986.

Snow, Shauna. "Wight Art Gallery Pays Tribute to Its Founding Director." *Los Angeles Times*, January 13, 1991.

Zone, Ray. "Frederick Wight." *ArtScene California*, 2005.

Ollman, Leah. "Frederick Wight at Louis Stern Fine Arts: A radiant state of mind in orbit." *Los Angeles Times*, May 30, 2008.

Moret, A. "Frederick Wight." *ArtScene/Visual Art Source*, January 2011.

"Frederick Wight: Radiant Skies- California Paintings." *Artweek LA*, January 30, 2011.

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William Hayes Fogg Art Museum. *Between the Empires: Géricault, Delacroix, Chassériau: Painters of the Romantic Movement*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Printing Office, 1946 (Essay by Frederick S. Wight).

William Hayes Fogg Art Museum. *French Painting Since 1870*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Printing Office, 1946 (Essay by Frederick S. Wight).

- The Institute of Contemporary Art. *Le Corbusier: New World of Space*. Exhibition catalogue. New York: Reynal and Hitchcock and the Institute of Contemporary Art, 1948.
- The Institute of Contemporary Art. *Jacques Villon– Lyonel Feininger*. Exhibition Catalogue. New York: Chanticleer Press, n.d. [1949 or 1950]
- Wight, Frederick S. *Milestones of American Painting in Our Century*. Exhibition catalogue. The Institute of Contemporary Art. New York: Chanticleer Press, 1949.
- The Institute of Contemporary Art. *Karl Zerbe*. Exhibition catalogue. Boston: The Institute of Contemporary Art, n.d.
- The Cleveland Museum of Art. *The Work of Lyonel Feininger*. Exhibition catalogue. The Cleveland Museum of Art, 1951. (Essay by Frederick S. Wight.)
- Wight, Frederick S. *Chrysalis: Six American Painters*. Exhibition catalogue. Boston: The Institute of Contemporary Art, 1951, volume 4, numbers 3-4.
- Baltimore Museum of Art. *Milton Avery*. Exhibition catalogue. Baltimore: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1952.
- The Institute of Contemporary Art. *Hyman Bloom*. Exhibition catalogue. Boston: The Institute of Contemporary Art, 1954.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Charles Sheeler: A Retrospective Exhibition*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1954.
- Wight, Frederick S. *John Marin Memorial Exhibition*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1955.
- Contemporary Arts Museum. *Contemporary Calligraphers: John Marin, Mark Tobey, Morris Graves*. Exhibition catalogue. Houston: Contemporary Arts Museum, 1957. (Forward by Frederick S. Wight.)
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Morris Graves*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1956.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Hans Hoffman*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1957.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Arthur G. Dove*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1958.

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- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Charles Sheeler: A Retrospective Exhibition*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1954.
- Wight, Frederick S. *John Marin Memorial Exhibition*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1955.
- Contemporary Arts Museum. *Contemporary Calligraphers: John Marin, Mark Tobey, Morris Graves*. Exhibition catalogue. Houston: Contemporary Arts Museum, 1957. (Forward by Frederick S. Wight.)
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Morris Graves*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1956.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Hans Hoffman*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1957.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Arthur G. Dove*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1958.

- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Richard Neutra*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Regents of the University of California, 1958.
- Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. *Modigliani: Paintings and Drawings*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Committee on Fine Arts Productions, University of California, Los Angeles, 1961.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Bonne Fête, Monsieur Picasso*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The Committee on Fine Arts Productions, University of California, Los Angeles, 1961.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *French Masters: Rococo to Romanticism*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1961.
- The Amon Carter Museum of Western Art. *The Artist's Environment: West Coast*. Exhibition catalogue. Fort Worth: The Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, 1962.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Lithographs from the Tamarind Workshop*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1962. (Introduction by Frederick S. Wight.)
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *The Gifford and Joann Phillips Collection*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1962. (Introduction by Frederick S. Wight.)
- The Pavilion Gallery. *Morris Graves*. Exhibition catalogue. Balboa, California: Fine Arts Patrons of Newport Harbor and Newport Harbor Service League, 1963.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Jacques Lipchitz*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1963.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Nathan Oliveira*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1963.
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- The UCLA Art Galleries. *From the Ludington Collection*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1964.
- The UCLA Art Galleries. *Years of Ferment: The Birth of Twentieth Century Art: 1886-1914*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: the UCLA Art Galleries, 1965. (Forward by Frederick S. Wight.)

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The Whitechapel Gallery. *New British Painting and Sculpture*. Exhibition catalogue. London: The Whitechapel Gallery, 1968.

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The UCLA Art Galleries. *Color*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, n.d. [1970]. (Organized as part of an Art Department graduate seminar under the direction of Frederick S. Wight.)

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The UCLA Art Galleries. *Deliberate Engagements*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1971. (Preface by Frederick S. Wight.)

The UCLA Art Galleries. *Transparency, Reflection, Light, Space: Four Artists*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1971.

The UCLA Art Galleries. *Twentieth Century Sculpture from Southern California Collections*. Exhibition catalogue. Los Angeles: The UCLA Art Galleries, 1972.

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