

Ralph Humphrey Biography

1932

Born: Youngstown, Ohio

1990

Died: New York, New York

EDUCATION

1951–1952, 1954–1956

Youngstown University, Ohio

TEACHING

1966–1990

Professor, Hunter College, City University of New York

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1959

Ralph Humphrey, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York,
February 3–21

1960

Ralph Humphrey, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York,
February 2–21

1961

Ralph Humphrey: Recent Paintings, Mayer Gallery,
New York, March 14–April 1

1965

Ralph Humphrey, Green Gallery, New York, May 5–29

1967

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York,
January 10–February 24

1968

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York,
February 3–29

1969

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York,
February 1–27
Galerie Alfred Schmela, Düsseldorf

1970

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York, April 4–25

1971

Ralph Humphrey, André Emmerich Gallery, New York,
March 20–April 8

1972

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York, May 2–23

1973

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York, May 12–
June 2

Ralph Humphrey: Survey of Paintings, Texas Gallery,
Houston, May 15–June 9

1974

Ralph Humphrey, Bykert Gallery, New York, April 20–
May 15

Ralph Humphrey: Paintings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery,
San Francisco, November–December

1975

Ralph Humphrey: Paintings, 1974, Bykert Gallery,
New York, February 4–26

Ralph Humphrey: Paintings, 1958–1966, Bykert/
Downtown, New York, February 4–26

1976

Ralph Humphrey, John Weber Gallery, New York,
January 31–February 25

1976–1977

Ralph Humphrey: Recent Paintings, Daniel Weinberg
Gallery, San Francisco, December 16, 1976–
January 22, 1977

1977

Ralph Humphrey, John Weber Gallery, New York,
February 9–26

1980

Ralph Humphrey, Willard Gallery, New York, April 5–
May 7

1982

Ralph Humphrey, Willard Gallery, New York, April 3–May 8

Ralph Humphrey: Paintings, 1975–1982, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, October 6–30

1983

Ralph Humphrey: Selected Paintings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, May 14–June 11

1984

Delahunty Gallery, Dallas

Ralph Humphrey, Willard Gallery, New York, April 7–May 12

1985

Ralph Humphrey: Recent Paintings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, October 16–November 2

1987

Ralph Humphrey, Jay Gorney Modern Art, New York, January–February

1990

Ralph Humphrey: 1990, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, March 3–31

Ralph Humphrey: Frame Paintings, 1964 to 1965, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, September 8–October 6

Ralph Humphrey: A Retrospective View, 1954–1990, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, November 8–December 5

1991

Ralph Humphrey: The Late Paintings on Paper, Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery, Hunter College, City University of New York, September 19–October 26

Ralph Humphrey: Paintings, 1975–1985, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, October–November

1996

Ralph Humphrey: Selected Paintings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, San Francisco, August 17–October 17

1998

Ralph Humphrey, Danese Gallery, New York, January 16–February 14

2000

Ralph Humphrey: Early Paintings, 1957–1967, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, November 1–December 9

2001

Ralph Humphrey: Later Paintings, 1975–1982, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, April 5–May 26

2008

Ralph Humphrey: Selected Works from the Estate, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, May 17–June 14

Ralph Humphrey: Selected Paintings, 1957–1980, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, May 31–June 28

2012

Ralph Humphrey, Gary Snyder Gallery, New York, September 13–October 27

2015

Ralph Humphrey: Conveyance, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, April 2–May 16

2018

Ralph Humphrey: Monochromes, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, September 6–October 20, 2018

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1961

American Abstract Expressionists and Imagists, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, October–December

1966

Systemic Painting, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, September–November

1967

Selected N.Y.C. Artists 1967, Ithaca College Museum of Art, Ithaca, New York, April 4–May 27

Focus on Light, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, May 20–September 10

Highlights of the 1966–1967 Art Season, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, June 18–September 4

A Romantic Minimalism, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, September 13–October 11

1968

Bykert Gallery, New York

The Art of the Real: USA, 1948–1968, Museum of Modern Art, New York, July 3–September 8

1968–1969

The Pure and Clear: American Innovations, Philadelphia Museum of Art, November 13, 1968–January 21, 1969

1969

American Painting: The 1960s, Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, September 22–November 8

Current Minimal Painting, Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, New York

1969–1970

1969 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, December 16, 1969–February 1, 1970

1970–1971

Color and Field, 1890–1970, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, September 15–November 1, 1970; Dayton Art Institute, Ohio, November 20, 1970–January 10, 1971; Cleveland Museum of Art, February 4–March 28, 1971

1971

The Structure of Color, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, February 25–April 18

Spray, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, April 24–May 30

Bykert Gallery, New York

Art of the Decade, 1960–1970: Paintings from the Collections of Greater Detroit, University Art Gallery, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan, November 14–December 17

1972

Painting and Sculpture Today, Indianapolis Museum of Art, April 26–June 4

Current American Abstract Painting, Vassar College Art Gallery, Poughkeepsie, New York

Dealers' Choice, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, California, July 15–September 27

1973

Drawings, Bykert Gallery, New York, January 6–24
Gallery Toselli, Milan

1974

New Painting: Stressing Surface, Katonah Gallery, Katonah, New York, May 4–June 23

Painting and Sculpture Today, Indianapolis Museum of Art, May 22–July 14; Taft Museum of Art, Cincinnati, September 12–October 24

Ten Painters in New York, Michael Walls Gallery, New York, June 15–July 6

Seventy-First American Exhibition, Art Institute of Chicago, June 15–August 11

1975

22 Artists, Susan Caldwell Gallery, New York, January 4–25

Fourteen Abstract Painters, Frederick S. Wight Art Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, March 25–May 25

Fourteen Artists, Baltimore Museum of Art, April 15–June 1

A Group Show Selected by Klaus Kertess, Texas Gallery, Houston, September 15–October 11

Douglas Drake Gallery, Kansas City, Missouri

1975–1976

Painting, Drawing, and Sculpture of the '60s and '70s from the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, October 7–November 18, 1975; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, December 17, 1975–February 15, 1976

1976

Ideas on Paper: 1970–1976, Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, May 2–June 6
Daniel Weinberg Gallery, San Francisco

1977

Paintings on Paper, Drawing Center, New York, January 15–26

Galerie Jean-Paul Najar, Paris

'75, '76, '77: *Painting, Part I*, Sarah Lawrence College Art Gallery, Bronxville, New York, February 19–March 10;

American Foundation for the Arts, Miami, April–May; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, June–July

A View of a Decade, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, September 10–November 10

John Weber Gallery, New York

1977–1978

Works from the Collection of Dorothy and Herbert Vogel, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, November 11, 1977–January 1, 1978

1978–1979

Late Twentieth Century Art from the Sydney and Frances Lewis Foundation, Anderson Gallery, Virginia

- Commonwealth University, Richmond, December 5, 1978–January 9, 1979; Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, March 22–May 2, 1979
- 1979
1979 Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, February 6–April 1
Generation, Susan Caldwell Gallery, New York
The Reductive Object: A Survey of the Minimalist Aesthetic in the 1960s, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, March 7–April 29
The Implicit Image: Abstract Painting in the '70s, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, April 29–June 1
Color and Structure, Hamilton Gallery, New York, May 5–June 2
 Texas Gallery, Houston
- 1980
Black, White, Other, R.H. Oosterom Gallery, New York, January 17–February 17
Current/New York: Recent Works in Relief, Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, January 27–February 24
Painting in Relief, Whitney Museum of American Art, Downtown Branch, New York, January 30–March 5
Painting and Sculpture Today, Indianapolis Museum of Art, June 24–August 17
3 Dimensional Painting, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, August 2–November 9
Planar Painting: Constructs, 1975–1980, Alternative Museum, New York, October 18–November 15, 1980
The Image Transformed, Art Latitude Gallery, New York, November 4–29
- 1981
A Seventies Selection: An Exhibition of Works from the Collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, Ohio, February 14–June 14
Abstract Mythologies, Nielsen Gallery, Boston, March 1–31
Between Painting and Sculpture, Pam Adler Gallery, New York, March 31–April 25
- 1981–1982
Drawing Invitational 1981, Harm Bouckaert Gallery, New York, December 2, 1981–January 2, 1982
- 1982
The Erotic Impulse, Roger Litz Gallery, New York
Postminimalism, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut, September 19–December 19
- 1983
Abstract Painting: 1960–1969, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Queens, January 16–March 13
New Work, New York: Newcastle Salutes New York, Newcastle Polytechnic Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, United Kingdom, October 8–November 4
- 1984
Parasol and Simca: Two Presses/Two Processes, Center Gallery, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, February 3–April 4, 1984; Sordoni Art Gallery, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, April 15–May 13
The Meditative Surface, Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago, April 1–May 16
- 1985
Abstract Painting Redefined, Louis K. Meisel Gallery, New York, February 16–March 30
Now and Then: A Selection of Recent and Earlier Paintings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, June 1–August 31
American Abstract Painting: 1960–1980, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, June 19–August 24
- 1986
The Purist Image, Marian Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, November
- 1986–1987
The Window in Twentieth-Century Art, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, September 21, 1986–January 18, 1987; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, April 24–June 29, 1987
- 1997
A Lasting Legacy: Selections from the Lannan Foundation Gift, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, September 9–December 14
- 2004
A Minimal Future?: Art as Object, 1958–1968, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, March 28–July 26

2006–2007

High Times, Hard Times: New York Painting, 1967–1975, Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, August 6–October 15, 2006; American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, American University, Washington, D.C., November 21, 2006–January 21, 2007; National Academy Museum, New York, February 13–April 27, 2007

2008

The Idea of Nature, 33 Bond Gallery, New York, June 12–July 31
Into the Void: Abstract Art, 1948–2008, Tucson Museum of Art, July 17–September 26

2008–2009

Steve DiBenedetto, Ralph Humphrey, Chris Martin, and Andrew Masullo/Paintings, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, December 6, 2008–January 31, 2009

2009

Image Matter, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, February 21–March 28
Not New: Vincent Fecteau Selects from the Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, July 25–November 8

2010

Wall-to-Wall, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles, June 5–August 14

2011

Surface Truths: Abstract Painting in the Sixties, Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California, March 25–August 15

2011–2012

The Language of Less: Then and Now, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, October 8, 2011–April 8, 2012
Contemporary Drawings from the Irving Stenn Jr. Collection, Art Institute of Chicago, October 19, 2011–February 26, 2012

2012

Susan Hartnett, Ralph Humphrey, Marilyn Lerner, and Dona Nelson, Mary Boone Gallery, New York, March 22–April 28

2014–2015

The Avant-Garde Collection, Orange County Museum of Art, California, September 7, 2014–January 4, 2015

2015

Pretty Raw: After and Around Helen Frankenthaler, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, February 11–June 7

2016

The Space Between a Line: Sol Lewitt, Ralph Humphrey, Thomas Chimes, Warren Rohrer, Sean Scully, Lee Ufan, Pat Steir, Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, October 12–November 17

2018

Three Gallery Artists, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, July 12–August 10

2019

American Dreams: Classic Cars and Postwar Paintings, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, February 14–May 19
Painters Reply: Experimental Painting in the 1970s and Now, Lisson Gallery, New York, June 27–August 10

2021

13 Artists: A Tribute to Klaus Kertess' Bykert Gallery 1966-75, David Nolan Gallery, New York, June 3–July 30
Coloring, University of Kentucky Art Museum, Lexington, August 10–December 11
Eye Control, David Lewis Gallery, New York, October 20–December 11

SELECTED MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy,
Andover, Massachusetts
Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin College, Ohio
Art Institute of Chicago
Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
Dayton Art Institute, Ohio
McNay Art Museum, San Antonio
Miami Art Museum
Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Museum of Modern Art, New York
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California
Oklahoma City Museum of Art
Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach,
California
Palm Springs Art Museum
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham,
Massachusetts
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
Tucson Museum of Art
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North
Carolina, Greensboro
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Selected Bibliography

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

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- Art Gallery, Oakland University. *Art of the Decade: 1960–1970*. Rochester, MI: Art Gallery, Oakland University, 1971.
- Art Institute of Chicago. *Seventy-First American Exhibition*. Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago, 1974.
- Baltimore Museum of Art. *Fourteen Artists*. Baltimore: Baltimore Museum of Art, 1975.
- Bellamy, Richard. *Focus on Light*. Trenton: New Jersey State Museum, 1967.
- Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery, Hunter College, City University of New York. *Ralph Humphrey: The Late Paintings on Paper*. New York: Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery, Hunter College, City University of New York, 1991.
- Brutvan, Cheryl. *The Triumph of Love: Beth Rudin DeWoody Collects*. West Palm Beach: Norton Museum of Art, 2015.
- Colt, Priscilla. *Color and Field: 1890–1970*. Buffalo: Albright-Knox Art Gallery, 1970.
- Contemporary Art Society. *Painting and Sculpture Today*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1972.
- . *Painting and Sculpture Today*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1974.
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- Danese Gallery. *Ralph Humphrey*. New York: Danese Gallery, 1998.
- Darling, Michael. *The Language of Less: Then and Now*. Chicago: Museum of Contemporary Art, 2011.
- Delehanty, Suzanne. *The Window in Twentieth-Century Art*. Purchase, NY: Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, 1986.
- Friedman, Martin L. *A View of a Decade*. Chicago: Museum of Contemporary Art, 1977.
- Goldstein, Ann. *A Lasting Legacy: Selections from the Lannan Foundation Gift*. Los Angeles: Museum of Contemporary Art, 1997.
- . *A Minimal Future?: Art as Object, 1958–1968*. Los Angeles: Museum of Contemporary Art, 2004.
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- Green, Samuel Adams. *American Painting: The 1960s*. Athens: Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, 1969.
- Helmrich, Michele. *Denise Green: Beyond and Between - A Painter's Journey*. Brisbane: University of Queensland, 2016.
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- Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. *The Reductive Object: A Survey of the Minimalist Aesthetic in the 1960's*. Boston: Institute of Contemporary Art, 1979.
- Ithaca College Museum of Art. *Selected N.Y.C. Artists 1967*. Ithaca, NY: Ithaca College Museum of Art, 1967.
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- Kertess, Klaus. *Seen, Written: Selected Essays*. New York: Gregory R. Miller & Co., 2010.
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- Marian Locks Gallery. *The Purist Image*. Philadelphia: Marian Locks Gallery, 1986.
- Miami University Art Museum. *A Seventies Selection: An Exhibition of Works from the Collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art*. Oxford, OH: Miami University Art Museum, 1981.
- Mary Boone Gallery. *Ralph Humphrey: 1990*. New York: Mary Boone Gallery, 1990.
- . *Ralph Humphrey: Frame Paintings, 1964 to 1965*. New York: Mary Boone Gallery, 1990.
- Nordland, Gerald. *Fourteen Abstract Painters*. Los Angeles: Frederick S. Wight Art Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, 1975.
- Philadelphia Museum of Art. *The Pure and Clear: American Innovations*. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art, 1968.
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- Pincus-Witten, Robert. *Postminimalism*. Ridgefield, CT: Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, 1982.
- Prokopoff, Stephen S. *A Romantic Minimalism*. Philadelphia: Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, 1967.

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- . *The Meditative Surface*. Chicago: Renaissance Society of the University of Chicago, 1984.
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- Tannenbaum, Judith. *3 Dimensional Painting*. Chicago: Museum of Contemporary Art, 1980.
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PERIODICALS

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- Kozloff, Max. "Light as Surface: Ralph Humphrey and Dan Christensen." *Artforum* 6, no. 6 (1968): 26–30.
- Kramer, Hilton. "Cutouts, for the Squaring of the Circle" *New York Times*, January 21, 1967.
- . "The Abstract and the Real: From Metaphysics to Visual Facts." *New York Times*, July 21, 1968.
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- Larson, Kay. "Guerilla Tactics." *New York Magazine* 20, no. 5 (1987): 54–55.
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- Levin, Kim. "Ralph Humphrey." *Village Voice*, February 10, 1987, 68.
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- . "Galleries: Group Show." *Arts Magazine* 47, no. 2 (1972): 68–69.
- Mayer, Rosemary. "New York: Group Show." *Arts Magazine* 47, no. 5 (1973): 71–72.
- Mellow, James R. "A Summer Show." *New York Times*, May 19, 1973.
- . "New York Letter." *Art International* 12, no. 4 (1968): 63–67.
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