

Franklin Williams

Biography

1940

Born: Ogden, Utah

Lives and works in Petaluma, California

EDUCATION

1964

California College of Arts & Crafts, Oakland, California

1966

California College of Arts & Crafts, Oakland, California
MFA

TEACHING

1969-2018

California College of Art, San Francisco & Oakland

1966-1999

San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California

1990

Gwent College of Higher Education, Newport, Wales

1990

Ruskin School of Drawing and Painting, Oxford,
England

1968

University of California, Davis, CA

1967

California State Hayward, CA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1959

Franklin Williams, Carbon College, Price, Utah

1964

Franklin Williams, New Mission Gallery, San Francisco,
California

1966

Franklin Williams, Richmond Art Center, Richmond,
California

Franklin Williams, Motion Gallery, San Jose, California

1967

Franklin Williams, California College of Arts & Crafts
Gallery, Oakland, CA

Franklin Williams, Dilexi Gallery, San Francisco,
California

1968

Franklin Williams, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento,
California

1969

Franklin Williams, Arleigh Gallery, San Francisco,
California

Franklin Williams, Phyllis B. Kind Gallery, Chicago,
Illinois

1970

Franklin Williams, University of California, Davis,
California

1972

Franklin Williams, Gallery Marc, Washington, D.C.

1973

Franklin Williams, Galerie B, Paris, France

1978

Franklin Williams: Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill,
California

1980

Franklin Williams, Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery,
University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada

1981

Franklin Williams, Sonoma State University Gallery,
Rohnert Park, California

1983

Franklin Williams Paintings & Constructions, San Jose
Museum of Art, San Jose, California, September 22-
November 6

1977–1983

Franklin Williams, Gallery K, Washington, D.C.

1984

Franklin Williams, Arkansas Museum of Art, Little Rock, Arkansas

Franklin Williams, Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, Utah

1971–1989

Franklin Williams, Braunstein Gallery, San Francisco, California

1992

Franklin Williams, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

1993

Franklin Williams, Joseph Chowning Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1995

Franklin Williams, L. Noel Harvey Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

1997

Franklin Williams, Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Logan, Utah

2003

Franklin Williams, Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery, San Francisco, California

2005

Franklin Williams, Crocker Art Museum Acquisition Exhibition, Sacramento, California

2007

Franklin Williams, Taylor & Company, San Francisco, California

2008

Obsession, Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery, Los Angeles, California, March 1–April 5

2017

Franklin Williams: 1963–73, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, California, September 17–November 4

Eye Fruit: The Art of Franklin Williams, Sonoma County Art Museum, Santa Rosa, California, May 13 – August 27

2019

The Inimitable Professor Emertius, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, California, October 27–December 21

2022

Meditative Spectacle: Paintings 1974–76, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, California, November 6–December 23

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1963

Some New Art in the Bay Area, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California

1964

Six Painters, New Mission Gallery, San Francisco, California

A Collection Representing 57 Years, Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, California

1966

Group Exhibition, Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon

Group Exhibition, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington

1967

Painting Annual, Whitney Museum, New York, New York, Dec 13–Feb 4, 1968

Group Exhibition, Dilexi Gallery, San Francisco, California

Funk Art, University of California, Berkeley, California, April 28–May 29

1968

Group Exhibition, Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California

Group Exhibition, Galleria Odyssea, New York, New York

Sculpture Annual, Whitney Museum, New York, New York, December 17–January 19, 1969

Group Exhibition, University of California, Davis, California

1969

San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA

1970

DeForest, Schlotzbauer, Williams, Arleigh Gallery, San Francisco, California, May–June

Group Exhibition, Gallery Marc, Washington, D.C.

Group Exhibition, Richmond Art Center, Richmond,
California

1972

Nut Art, California State University, Hayward,
California

1973

Statements, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland

1974

Group Exhibition, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada

1969–1975

Phyllis B. Kind Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

1975

Tribute to the San Francisco Art Institute, Hansen Fuller,
San Francisco, California

1976

6 from California, Museum of Art, Washington State
University, Pullman, Washington, October 29–
November 20

1977

Bay Area Artists, Oakland Museum of California,
California

1979

Major Works, Gallery K, Washington, D.C.

1981

Surface Design/The New Decorative, San Jose State
University, San Jose, California, January 26–February
27

Abstractions, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco,
California

1983

On & Off the Wall: Shaped and Colored, Oakland
Museum of California, Oakland, California, February
8–April 7

1984

Jacksonville Art Museum, Jacksonville, Florida, June
9–July 31

Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, UT
San Francisco Bay Area Painting, Sheldon Memorial Art
Gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska, September 9–October 29

The Dilexi Years (1958-1970), Oakland Museum of
California, Oakland, California, October 13–
December 16

1985

Group Exhibition, Laguna Beach Museum of Art,
Laguna Beach, California
Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA

1988

pFORMative ACTS, Walter McBean Gallery, San
Francisco, California

2002

The Medium is the Message, San Jose Museum, San Jose,
California, March 2–June 2

2004

San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, California

2008

At Home, Lincart, San Francisco, California, September
25–October 25

2012

Williams | Waits, Smith Anderson North, San Anselmo,
California, June 16–August 4

2016

Curtains, 47 Canal Gallery, New York, New York,
January 16–February 14

2017

*Jean Conner, Wally Hedrick, Deborah Remington and
Franklin Williams*, Karma, New York, New York,
November 12–December 22

Nut Art, Parker Gallery, Los Angeles, California, May
28–August 5

2018

Be Not Still: Living In Uncertain Times (Part 2), di Rosa
Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, California, June
23–December 30

Way Bay, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film
Archive, Berkeley, California, January 17–June 3

2019

Less is a Bore: Maximalist Art and Design, ICA Boston,
Boston, Massachusetts, June 26–September 22
Downtown Painting, presented by Alex Katz, Peter

Freeman Inc., New York, New York, June 5–July 26
Landscapes Without Boundaries, Manetti Shrem Museum
of Art, Davis, California, July 14–December 15
Building a Different Model, di Rosa Center for
Contemporary Art, Napa, California, March
9–December 29

2020

Lover Earth: Art and Sexuality, The Frances Young Tang
Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore
College, Saratoga Springs, New York, May 30–
August 23

2019–2021

*With Pleasure: Pattern & Decoration in American Art
1972–1985*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los
Angeles, California, October 27–May 18; travels to
the Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-
on-Hudson, New York, June 26–November 28, 2021

2023–2024

Nuts and Who's: A Candy Store Sampler, San Jose Museum
of Art, San Jose, California, August 11, 2023–February
25, 2024

To the Max!, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art,
Napa, California, September 8, 2023–August 25,
2024

2025–2026

Sixties Surreal, Whitney Museum of American Art,
September 4, 2025–January 19, 2026

2026

*The Expanding Field: MOCA'S Collection From the 1940s
to 1970s*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los
Angeles, California, April 18–September 20

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive,
University of California, Berkeley
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California
di Rosa Collection, Napa, California
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles,
California
Manetti Shrem Museum of Art, University of California,
Davis, California
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California
Museum of Northern California Art, Chico, California
Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Logan, Utah
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, California
Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska
Tang Teaching Museum, Skidmore College, Saratoga
Springs, New York
University of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Selected Bibliography

BOOKS AND CATALOGUES

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- Bettelheim, Judith. *On and Off the Wall: Shaped and Colored*. Oakland Art Museum, 1983.
- De Forest, Schlotzbauer, Williams. Arleigh Gallery, San Francisco, California, 1970.
- Franklin Williams: *Paintings* 1978, Braunstein Gallery, San Francisco, California, 1978
- Landauer, Susan. *Eye Fruit: The Art of Franklin Williams*. Museums of Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, California, 2017.
- Martin, Fred. *Franklin Williams: Paintings and Constructions*, San Jose Museum of Art, 1983.
- Neubert, George. *San Francisco Bay Area Painting*, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 1984.
- Nut Art*. Hayward: California State University, Hayward, Art Gallery, 1972.
- San Francisco Museum of Modern Art: *The Painting and Sculpture Collection*. Hudson Hills Press, New York, in association with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 1985.
- Selz, Peter. *Funk*. University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, California, 1967.
- Separate From and Always Together*. Washington State University Press, 1975.
- St. John, Terry and Jim Newman. *The Dilexi Years: 1958–1970*. The Oakland Museum, Oakland, California.
- The Art of Franklin Williams*. Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 1997.
- Watkinson, Patricia Grieve. *6 from California: Robert Arneson, Roy De Forest, Roland Petersen, Wayne Thiebaud, William T. Willey, Franklin Williams*. Museum of Art, Washington State University Press, 1976.
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- Williams, Franklin. *Soft as Cotton, Centered and Hard: Painting and Poetry*. Stoá Gallery, Petaluma, California, 1997.
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- Atkins, Robert. “A Tale of Two Coasts.” *The Museum of California Magazine*, September/ October 1983.
- Bahr, Jeff. “Sheldon Show Gives a View of the Bay Area.” *Lincoln Star*, September 20, 1984.
- Boettger, Suzaan “On and Of Post-Modernism”. *The Museum of California Magazine*, November/December 1983.
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- Coplands, John. *Art International*, June 1963.
- Dunham, Judith L. “Three Bay Area Shows.” *Artweek*, March 19, 1977.
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- Frankenstein, Alfred, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 1967
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- Frankenstein, Alfred. “Fantastic Ships and Soft Sculpture,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 19, 1977.
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- French, Christopher. “Looking Back to the Dilexi,” *Artweek*, November 3, 1984.
- French, Palmer D. “Reviews–San Francisco.” *Artforum*, December 1967.
- French, Palmer D. “Reviews–San Francisco.” *Artforum*, November 1969.
- George, Jan. “Picasso Meets Frost: Ogdenite Mixes Abstractness with Poetry.” *Utah Statesman*, Utah State University, Logan, UT, November 21, 1997.
- Hagan, R.H. “Dilexi To Select, to Value, to Love.” *The Museum of California Magazine*, September/October 1984.
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Miller, Del. "Creates 'Fuzzy Fairyland'." *Argus-Courier*, Petaluma, CA, April 2, 1971.

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Morch, Al. "Enjoying Abstract Art with a Wandering Mind," *San Francisco Examiner*, March 16, 1981.

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