

JOAN MITCHELL was born in Chicago on February 12, 1925. After graduating from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1947, she was awarded a James Nelson Raymond Foreign Traveling Fellowship, which took her to France for a year in 1948–49. There, her paintings moved toward abstraction. Upon her return to New York she participated in the famous “9th Street Show” in 1951. Mitchell soon established a reputation as one of the leading younger American Abstract Expressionist painters and exhibited regularly in New York throughout the next four decades. Throughout her life she maintained close friendships with many New York School painters and poets.

In 1955 Mitchell began dividing her time between New York and France. In 1968 she settled in Vétheuil, a small town in the countryside outside of Paris, where she worked continuously until her death in 1992. During the almost 50 years of her painting life, as Abstract Expressionism was eclipsed by successive styles, Mitchell's commitment to the tenets of gestural abstraction remained firm and uncompromising.

Klaus Kertess shared with The Joan Mitchell Foundation, “She transformed the gestural painterliness of Abstract Expressionism into a vocabulary so completely her own that it could become ours as well. And her total absorption of the lessons of Matisse and van Gogh led to a mastery of color inseparable from the movement of light and paint. Her ability to reflect the flow of her consciousness in that of nature, and in paint, is all but unparalleled.”

Mitchell was awarded Le Grand Prix des Arts (Peinture) of the city of Paris (1991); the Award for Painting, French Ministry of Culture (1989); Honorary Doctorate, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1987); the Brandeis University Creative Arts Awards, Citation in Painting (1973); Honorary Doctorate, The Western College, Oxford, Ohio (1971); Premio Lissone (Lissone Prize), Milan (1961); and the James Nelson Raymond Foreign Traveling Fellowship from the Art Institute of Chicago (1947).

Mitchell died in Paris on October 30, 1992 at the age of 67.

SELECT COLLECTIONS

Ackland Art Museum, Chapel Hill, NC
Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
Allen Memorial Art Museum at Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Berardo Museum - Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL
Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas, Austin, TX
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University, Lewiston, NY
Cleveland Museum of Art, OH
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME
Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR
Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX
The Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA
Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI
The Empire State Plaza Art Collection, Albany, NY
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
Fondation Maeght, Saint-Paul, France
Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Puteaux, France
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain - Haute-Normandie, Sotteville-lès-Rouen, France
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain - Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Marseille, France
Foundation de 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium
Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI
Hammer Museum, University of California, Los Angeles, CA
Harvard Art Museums, Fogg Museum, Cambridge, MA
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC
Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead, NY
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Indianapolis Museum of Art, IN
Iwaki City Art Museum, Japan
J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, CA

Miles McEnery Gallery

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Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MI
The Art Museum at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
LAAC - Lieu d'Art et Action Contemporaine de Dunkerque, Dunkerque, France
Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, TX
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Foundation, Paris, France
The McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX
Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall, Sweden
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI
Minnesota Museum of American Art, Saint Paul, MN
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX
Musée de l'Hospice Saint-Roch, Issoudun, France
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Caen, Caen, France
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, Canada
Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.
Osaka City Art Museum of Modern Art, Japan
Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, Providence, RI
Saint Louis Art Museum, MI
Samsung Museum, Seoul, South Korea
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, Shizuoka-shi, Japan
Smart Museum of Art at the University of Chicago, IL
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, MA
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.
The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY
The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Stanford University, Anderson Collection, Palo Alto, CA
The Tate Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS

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Ulster Museum, Belfast, United Kingdom

University of California, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA

University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA

University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI

Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, WV

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, NC

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT

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