

LEON KOSSOFF

Biography

- 1926 Born in City Road, Islington, London
Lived in Shoreditch, Bethnal Green and Hackney, London
- 1938-43 Attended Hackney Downs (Grocers) School, London
- 1939-43 Evacuated with school to King's Lynn, Norfolk
Lived with Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Bishop who encouraged his interest in art
Made first paintings
- 1943 Returned to London
Attended life drawing evening classes at Toynbee Hall and St. Martin's School of Art, London
Commerical Art Course at St. Martin's School of Art, London
- 1945-48 Military Service with Royal Fusiliers, attached to 2nd Battalion Jewish Brigade, served in Italy, Holland, Belgium, and Germany
- 1949-53 Studied at St. Martin's School of Art
Attended evening classes at Borough Polytechnic, London, with David Bomberg (1950-52)
- 1950-53 Studio at Mornington Crescent
- 1953-61 Moved to Bethnal Green
Studied at Royal College of Art, London
Worked on paintings of St. Paul's Cathedral and City building sites
First paintings of Seedo and of his father
- 1956 Joined Helen Lessore's Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Place, London
- 1959-69 Taught at Regent Street Polytechnic, Chelsea School of Art and St. Martin's School of Art, London
- 1961-66 Moved studio to Willesden Junction
Finished "Man in a Wheelchair" (first painting of John Lessore)
- 1966-pres Moved studio to Willesdon Green
- 1969 First swimming pool painting
Worked on this subject until 1972, as well as paintings of York Way Railway Bridge and various sitters
- 1972-75 Occupied an additional studio in Dalston Lane, North London
Worked on paintings of Dalston Junction and Ridley Road street market, Dalston Lane, and views of Hackney and the German Hospital
- 1976 First Kilburn Underground paintings
- 1980 First paintings of red-brick school building
Continued to work on this subject, Kiburn Underground paintings, as well as various sitters
- 1987 First paintings of Christ Church, Spitalfields; "Here Comes the Diesel" and "Between Kilburn and Willesden Green"
Continued to work on these subjects until 1994
- 1994 First Embankment paintings
- 1997 First Kings Cross paintings
- 2002 First Cherry Tree paintings

Solo Exhibitions

- 2013-14 *Leon Kossoff: London Landscapes*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England, 8 May - 6 July 2013; traveled to Galerie Lelong, 5 September – 26 October 2013; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, 5 November – 21 December 2013; L.A. Louver, Venice, 23 January – 1 March 2014 (catalogue)
- 2010-11 *Leon Kossoff*, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England; traveled to Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2009 *Leon Kossoff: From the Early Years 1957-1967*, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, in association with L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2008 *Leon Kossoff: Unique Prints of Paintings from the National Gallery*, Art Space London | Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London
- 2007 *Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting*, National Gallery of Art, London
- 2004-05 *Leon Kossoff: Selected Paintings 1956-2000*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark; traveled to Museum of Art Lucerne, Switzerland
- 2002 *Leon Kossoff: Drawn to Painting, Poussin, Rubens and Other Subjects*, Pillsbury & Peters Fine Art, Dallas, TX
- 2001 *Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff and Drawings after Nicolas Poussin*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
Leon Kossoff, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2000 *Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff Prints and Drawings After Nicolas Poussin*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Poussin Landscapes by Kossoff, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
After Nicolas Poussin: New Etchings by Leon Kossoff, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Leon Kossoff, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; traveled to Annely Juda Fine Art, London
- 1997 *Leon Kossoff: Corner Exhibition*, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 1996 *Leon Kossoff*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1995-96 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings*, XLVI Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; traveled to Dusseldorf Kunstverein, Dusseldorf, Germany; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1993 *Leon Kossoff: Drawings 1985-1992*, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London; traveled to L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
Leon Kossoff: Paintings, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 1988 *Leon Kossoff*, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London
- 1984 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Drawings and Etchings*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London
Leon Kossoff: Recent Work, Fischer Fine Art, London; traveled to L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1983 *Leon Kossoff*, Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York
- 1982 *Leon Kossoff Paintings*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1981 *Leon Kossoff: Paintings from a Decade 1970-80*, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, England
Leon Kossoff, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, England
- 1980 *Recent Drawings*, Riverside Studio, London
- 1979 *Leon Kossoff: Paintings and Drawings*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1975 *Leon Kossoff at Fischer Fine Art*, London
- 1974 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings and Drawings*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1973 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings and Drawings*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1972 *Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 1968 *Leon Kossoff*, Marlborough Fine Art Ltd., London
- 1964 *Leon Kossoff: A Selection of Paintings, 1949-1964*, Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1963 *Leon Kossoff [exhibition of paintings and drawings]*, Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1961 *Leon Kossoff [exhibition of paintings]*, Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1959 *Leon Kossoff [exhibition of paintings and drawings]*, Beaux Arts Gallery, London
- 1957 *Leon Kossoff [exhibition of paintings, drawings, lithographs, etchings]*, Beaux Arts Gallery, London

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2018 *Evolver*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2016-17 *British Art from Whistler to World War II*, curated by Peyton Skipwith, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA, 18 September 2016 - 8 January 2017
London Calling: Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Andrews, Auerbach, Kitaj, curated by Julian Brooks and Timothy Potts, The Getty Museum, Los Angeles, CA, 26 July - 13 November 2016
- 2014-15 *Bare Life: Bacon, Freud, Hockney and others. London Artists Working from Life 1950-80*, LWL Museum fur Kunst und Kultur, Munster, Germany, 8 November 2014 - 22 February 2015
Impressions: The Fine Art of Original Prints, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, New York, 4 November - 20 December 2014
Kunstkabinet: School of London, Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam, 13 October 2014 - 8 March 2015
I Cheer a Dead Man's Sweetheart: 21 Painters in Britain, De la Warr Pavilion, Bexhill, East Sussex, 15 March - 29 June 2014
- 2013 *Paintings & Ceramics*, Erskine Hall & Coe, London, England, 1 July - 20 July 2013
Radical Figures: Post War British Figurative Painting, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, England, 16 March 2013 - 16 March 2014
- 2011-12 *The Mystery of Appearance*, Haunch of Venison, London (catalogue)
Loose Canon, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 2010 *Modernist Realism: The School of London from Andrews to O'Donoghue*, James Hyman Gallery, London
- 2009-10 *Paint Made Flesh*, Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; traveled to The Philips Collection, Washington D.C.; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2008-09 *Goya and the Modern World*, Museo de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain (catalogue)
From Berlin to London: Works from a private European collection: Frank Auerbach, Max Beckmann, David Bomberg, John Constable, Otto Dix, Lucian Freud, George Grosz, Leon Kossoff, Emil Nolde, Paula Rego, Walter Richard Sickert,, Luc Bellier Gallery, Paris
Other Men's Flowers, Hhugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
A Guest of Honour: From Francis Bacon to Peter Doig, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria
- 2007-08 *British Vision: Observation and Imagination in British Art 1750 - 1950*, Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium (catalogue)
The Mirror and the Mask: Portraiture in the Age of Picasso, Museo Thyssen Bornemisza and Fundacion Caja, Madrid, Spain; traveled to Kimball Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX (catalogue)
The Naked Portrait, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland; traveled to Compton Verney, Warwickshire, England (catalogue)
- 2006 *Passion for Paint*, Bristol's City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol; traveled to Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, and National Gallery, London
British Art: A Post-War Selection, Thomas Gibson Fine Art Ltd., London
The New Landscape/The New Still Life: Soutine and His Legacy 1950 - 2006, Cheim and Read, New York, NY
- 2005-06 *Self-Portraits: 1500 - 2000*, National Portrait Gallery, London; traveled to Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Impressionist and Modern Masters, Richard Green Galleries, London
- 2004 *Visions of London: Contemporary Artists Draw Their City*, Art Space Gallery, Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London
- 2003 *From Life: Radical Figurative Art from Sickert to Bevan*, James Hyman Fine Art, London
- 2001-02 *Corner Exhibition*, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2000-01 *The School of London and Their Friends: The Collection of Elaine and Melvin Merians*, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT; traveled to Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, New York
La Mirada Fuerte: Pintura Figurativa de Londres, British Council in Association with the Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Museum of Modern Art, Mexico City; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Monterrey, Mexico

- 1999 *Close Encounters: New Art from the Old*, National Gallery, London; traveled to L'Ecole de Londres de Bacon a Bevan, Foundation Dina L'Ecole de Londres de Bacon a Bevan, Foundation Dina Vierny / Musee Maillol, Paris; Auditorio De Galicia, Santiago de Compostella; Kunsthaus, Vienna, Italy
- 1995-96 *From London: Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Andrews, Auerbach, Kitaj, British Council in Association with the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art*, Edinburgh; traveled to Musee d'Etat - Staatsmuseum, Luxembourg; Musee Cantonal de Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland; Fundacio Caixa de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain
Identity and Alterity: Figures of the Body 1895 - 1995, XLVI Venice International Biennale, Museo Correr and Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy
- 1994-95 *Dobbel Virkelighet/Double Reality*, Astrup Fearnly Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, Norway (catalogue)
An American Passion: The Susan Kasen Summer and Robert D. Summer Collection of Contemporary British Painting, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, Scotland
Visual Excitment, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Helen Lessore: Artist and Art Dealer, Theo Waddington Fine Art, London
- 1993-94 *Drawing on These Shores: A View of British Drawing and Its Affinities*, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, England
Seven British Painters: Selected Masters of Post War British Art, Marlborough Fine Art, London
- 1992-93 *British Figurative Painting of the 20th Century*, British Council, Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 1991-92 *Da Bacon a Oggi: L'Outsider nella Figurazione Britannica/From Bacon to Now: the Outsider in British Configuration*, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence
The Contemporary Art Society: Eighty Years of Collecting, Hayward Gallery, London
Transformation of Appearance: Andrews, Auerbach, Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Tate Gallery, London
Affinities in Paint, Crane Gallery, London
- 1990 *Glasgow's Great British Art Exhibition*, Glasgow Museum and Art Galleries, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow
Tribute to Peter Fuller, Beaux Arts, Bath, England
The Pursuit of the Real: British Figurative Painting from Sickert to Bacon, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester, England; traveled to the Barbican Art Gallery, London; Glasgow City Art Gallery, Glasgow
The British Imagination: Twentieth Century Painting, Sculpture and Drawing, Hirschl & Adler, New York, NY
- 1989 *School of London: Works on Paper*, Odette Gilbert Gallery, London
Picturing People: British Figurative Art since 1945, British Council, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Leon Kossoff/Bill Woodrow, Saatchi Collection, London
- 1988 *The British Picture*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
Exhibition Road: Painters at the Royal College of Art, Royal College of Art, London
Past and Present, Arts Council of Great Britain, Manchester City Art Gallery, England
- 1987-88 *British Figurative Painting*, Pamela Auchincloss Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA
British Art in the 20th Century: The Modern Movement, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Works on Paper, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London
Current Affairs, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford; traveled to Mucsarnock, Budapest, Hungary; National Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic; Zacheta, Warsaw, Poland
A School of London (Six Figurative Painters), The British Council; traveled to Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebeck; Museo d'Arte Moderna, c'Persaro, Venice; and Kunstmuseum, Dusseldorf, Germany
Art of Our Time: The Saatchi Collection, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
Past and Present: Contemporary Artists Drawing from the Masters, South Bank Centre, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester, England
- 1986 *Forty Years of Modern Art*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1985 *A Singular Vision: Paintings of the Figure by Contemporary Artists*, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, England

- The British Show*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia; traveled to Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
Rocks and Flesh: and Argument for British Drawing, Norwich School of Art Gallery, Norwich, England
Human Interest: Fifty Years of British Art about People, Cornerhouse, Manchester, England
- 1984 *The Hard Won Image: Traditional Method and Subject in Recent British Art*, Tate Gallery, London
The Forgotten Fifties, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, England; traveled to Norwich Castle Museum, Norwich, England; Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Coventry, England; Camden Arts Centre, London
The Proper Study: Contemporary Figurative Paintings from Britain, The British Council, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Bombay Centre for the Performing Arts, India
The British Art Show: Old Allegiances and New Directions 1979 - 1984, Arts Council of Great Britain, City of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, England
- 1982 *British Watercolors and Drawings: 1950 to the Present Day*, The British Council; traveled to China Art Gallery, Beijing; Art Gallery and Shenyang Hans Kous Museum of Art, Hong Kong; Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 1981-82 *13 Britische Kunstler: Eine Ausstellung uber Maleri/13 Artists: A Painting Exhibition*, Neue Galerie Sammlung Ludwig, Aachen, Kunstverein, Mannheim, Germany
Eight Figurative Painters: Michael Andrews, Frank Auerbach, Francis Bacon, William Coldstream, Lucian Freud, Patrick George, Leon Kossoff, Euan Uglow, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, MA; traveled to Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
- 1980 *Art Anglais d'aujourd'hui: Collection de la Tate Gallery, Londres*, Musee Rath, Geneva, Switzerland
From Object to Object, Arts Council of Great Britain, England
- 1979-80 *The British Arts Show*, Arts Council of Great Britain, England; traveled to Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield, England
The Hayward Annual: Current British Art, selected by Helen Chadwick, Paul Gopal Choudhury, James Faure Walker, John Hilliard and Nicholas Pope, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
This Knot of Life, Paintings and Drawings by British Artists, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA
- 1977 *British Painting 1952 - 1977*, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 1976 *The Human Clay: An Exhibition Selected by R.B. Kitaj*, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1975 *Body and Soul*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, England
Drawings of People: and Exhibition of Drawings selected for the Arts Council by Patrick George, Arts Council of Great Britain, London
Council by Patrick George, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1974 *British Painting '74*, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London
- 1972 *English Explorations: An Exhibition of Recent Works by Seven Artists Living and Working in London*, Fischer Fine Art, London
- 1968 *Helen Lessore and the Beaux Arts Gallery*, Marlborough Fine Art, London
- 1967 *Recent British Paintings from the Peter Stuyvesant Foundation*, Tate Gallery, London
- 1964 *Survey of Figurative Painting*, Hempstead Art Center, London
- 1963 *British Painting in the Sixties: An Exhibition Organized by the Contemporary Art Society*, Tate Gallery/Whitechapel Art Gallery, London
- 1954-64 *Painting and Sculpture of a Decade*, Tate Gallery, London

Grants and Awards

- 2014 American Academy of Arts and Letters

Public Collections

- Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
 Art Gallery of Southern Australia, Adelaide, Australia
 Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago

Arts Council of Great Britain, London
Australian National Gallery, Canberra, Australia
Berardo Museum, Collection of Modern & Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham
British Council, London
British Museum, London
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum, Bedford England
Chrysler Museum, Provincetown, MA
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
Contemporary Art Society, London
Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston-Upon-Hull, England
Government Art Collection, London
Guildhall Art Gallery, London
Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles
Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds
Leicester Museum and Galleries, Leicester, England
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humblaek, Denmark
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Museum of London, London
Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany
Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland
National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh
National Gallery of Victoria, Mebourne, Australia
National Portrait Gallery, London
Peter Stuyvesant Collection, London
Rochdale Art Gallery, Lancashire
Rooseum Center for Contemporary Art, Malmo, Sweden
Royal College of Art Collection, London
Rugby Museum, Warwickshire, England
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Wiltshire, England
Tate Gallery, London
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
The Jewish Museum, New York
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Lugano, Switzerland
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Manchester
Yale Center of British Art, New Haven, CT