

## **LEON KOSSOFF**

### Biography:

- 1926            Born City Road, Islington, London
- 1926-39        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
- 1943-45        Commercial 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 and attended evening classes at  
Borough Polytechnic, London, with David Bomberg (1950-52)
- 1950-53        Studio at Mornington Crescent
- 1953-61        Moved to Bethnal Green
- 1953-56        Studied at Royal College of Art, London
- 1953-54        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. During this period finished 'Man in a Wheelchair' (his first painting of John Lessore)
- 1966 Moved studio to Willesden Green (1966 to present)
- 1969 First swimming pool painting. Worked on this subject until 1972, at the same time worked on 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 work on both this subject and Kilburn Underground paintings. Also working concurrently with various sitters
- 1987 First paintings of Christ Church, Spitalfields; 'Here Comes the Diesel' and 'Between Kilburn and Willesden Green'. Continued work on these subjects until 1994
- 1994 First Embankment paintings
- 1997 First Kings Cross paintings
- 2002 First Cherry Tree paintings

Lives and works in London

Solo Exhibitions:

2010-11

Leon Kossoff, Annely Juda Fine Art, London, England, October 28, 2010 – January 31, 2011; travels to Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, New York, May 5 – June 18, 2011; L.A. Louver, Venice, California, September 8 – October 8, 2011

2010

Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia, October 12 – December 4

2009

Leon Kossoff: From the Early Years 1957-1967, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, New York, in association with L.A. Louver, Venice, California, February 17 – March 28, 2009

2008

Leon Kossoff: Unique Prints of Paintings from the National Gallery, Art Space Gallery | Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London, England, 16 May – 21 June 2008

2007

Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting, National Gallery of Art, London, England, March 14 - July 1, 2007

2004-2005

Leon Kossoff: Selected Paintings 1956 - 2000, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, November 19, 2004 - March 28, 2005; traveled to Museum of Art Lucerne, Lucerne, April 23 -July 17, 2005

2002

Leon Kossoff: Drawn to Painting, Poussin, Rubens and Other Subjects, Pillsbury & Peters Fine Art, Dallas, Texas, June 28 - August 24, 2002

2001

Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff Prints and Drawings after Nicolas Poussin, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, March 17 - May 27, 2001

Leon Kossoff, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia, March 21 – May 12, 2001

2000

Drawn to Painting: Leon Kossoff Prints and Drawings After Nicolas Poussin, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, January 20 - April 2, 2000

Poussin Landscapes by Kossoff, J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California, January 20 - April 2, 2000

After Nicolas Poussin: New Etchings by Leon Kossoff, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, March 28 - August 13, 2000

Leon Kossoff, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, New York, April 11 - May 24, 2000; traveled to Annely Juda Fine Art, London, June 1 - July 22, 2000

1997  
Corner Exhibition, Copenhagen

1996  
Leon Kossoff, Tate Gallery, London, June 6 – September 1, 1996

1995-1996  
Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings, XLVI Venice Biennale, Venice, June 12 - October 15, 1995; traveled to Dusseldorf Kunstverein, Dusseldorf, December 12, 1995 - January 21, 1996; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, February 8 - March 31, 1996

1993  
Leon Kossoff: Drawings 1985 - 1992, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London, February 5 - March 6, 1993; traveled to L.A. Louver, Venice, California, May 8 - June 5, 1993

1988  
Leon Kossoff, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London, England, September 8 - October 8, 1988;

Leon Kossoff: Paintings, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, New York, November 1-26, 1988

1984  
*Leon Kossoff: Recent Drawings and Etchings*, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London

Leon Kossoff, Recent Work, Fischer Fine Art Ltd. London, England, March - April, 1984; traveled to L.A. Louver Venice, California, November 15 - December 15, 1984

1983  
Leon Kossoff, Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, New York, March 5 - 26, 1983

1982  
Leon Kossoff Paintings, L.A. Louver, Venice, California, May 7 - June 5, 1982

1981

Leon Kossoff: Paintings from a Decade 1970-80, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, May - July, 1981

Leon Kossoff, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, 1981

1980

Recent Drawings, Riverside Studio, London

1979

Leon Kossoff: Paintings and Drawings, Fischer Fine Art Ltd., London

1975

Leon Kossoff at Fischer Fine Art, Fischer Fine Art Ltd., London

1974

Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings and Drawings, Fischer Fine Art, London

1973

Leon Kossoff: Recent Paintings and Drawings, Fischer Fine Art Ltd., 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

Selected Group Exhibitions:

2010

Modernist Realism: The School of London from Andrews to O'Donoghue, James Hyman Gallery, London, England, February 25 – May 5, 2010

2009 -10

Paint Made Flesh, Frist Center for Visual Arts, Nashville, TN, January 23 – May 10, 2009; traveled to The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., June 20 – September 13, 2009; Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY, October 24, 2009 – January 3, 2010

2008-09

Goya and the Modern World, Museo de Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain, December 18, 2008 – March 8, 2009 (catalogue)

2008

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, September 12 - October 30, 2008

Other Men's Flowers, Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland, June 26 – October 5, 2008

A Guest of Honour: From Francis Bacon to Peter Doig, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria, 15 March - 6 July 2008 (catalogue)

2007 - 08

British Vision: Observation and Imagination in British Art 1750-1950, Museum of Fine Arts Ghent, Belgium, October 6, 2007 - January 13, 2008 (catalogue)

2007

The Mirror and the Mask: Portraiture in the Age of Picasso, Museo Thyssen Bornemisza and Fundacion Caja Madrid, Madrid, Spain, February 6 - May 20, 2007; traveling to Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX, June 17 - September 16, 2007 (catalogue)

The Naked Portrait, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 6 – September 2; traveled to Compton Verney, Warwickshire, England, September 29 – December 9 (catalogue)

2006

Passion for Paint, Bristol's City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, January 21 - April 2, 2006; traveled to Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne, April 13 - July 9, 2006; and National Gallery, London, July 20 - September 17, 2006

British Art: A Post-War Selection, Thomas Gibson Fine Art Ltd., London, April 24 - May 22, 2006

The New Landscape/The New Still Life: Soutine and His Legacy 1950 - 2006, Cheim and Read, New York, New York, June 20 - September 9, 2006

2005 - 06

Self-Portraits: 1500-2000, National Portrait Gallery, London, October 20, 2005 - January 29, 2006; traveled to Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, February 17 - May 14, 2006

2005

Impressionist and Modern Masters, Richard Green at Three London Galleries, London, September 28 - October 8, 2005

2004

Visions of London: Contemporary Artists Draw Their City, Art Space Gallery, Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London, May 28 - June 26, 2004

2003

From Life: Radical Figurative Art from Sickert to Bevan, James Hyman Fine Art, London, September 10 - October 18, 2003

2001 - 02

Corner Exhibition, Copenhagen, Denmark, December 29, 2001 - January 20, 2002

2000 - 01

The School of London and Their Friends: The Collection of Elaine and Melvin Merians, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut, October 11, 2000 - January 14, 2001; traveled to Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, New York, January 28 - May 27, 2001

2000

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, April 4 - June 11, 2000; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Monterrey, Mexico, June 22 - September 10, 2000

Close Encounters: New Art from the Old, National Gallery London, June 14- September 17, 2000

1998 - 99

L'École de Londres de Bacon à Bevan, Fondation Dina L'École de Londres de Bacon à Bevan, Fondation Dina Vierny / Musée Maillol, Paris, October 10, 1998 - January 20, 1999; traveled to Auditorio De Galicia, Santiago de Compostella, February 6 - April 4, 1999; Kunsthhaus, Vienna, May 11 - August 29, 1999

1995 - 96

From London: Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Andrews, Auerbach, Kitaj, British Council in association with the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, July 1 - September 5, 1995; traveled to Musée de l'Etat- Staatsmuseum, Luxembourg, September 22 - November 5, 1995; Musée Cantonal de Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, November 16, 1995 - January 31, 1996; Fundacio Caixa de Catalunya, Barcelona, February 16 - April 16, 1996

1995

Identity and Alterity: Figures of the Body 1895-1995, XLVI Venice International Biennale, Museo Correr and Palazzo Grassi, Venice, June 12 - October 15, 1995

1994 - 95

Dobbel Virkelighet/Double Reality, Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, April - October, 1994

Visual Excitement, Amsterdam, October - November, 1994

Helen Lessore: Artist and Art Dealer, Theo Waddington Fine Art, London, November - December, 1994

An American Passion: The Susan Kasen Summer and Robert D. Summer Collection of Contemporary British Painting McClellan Galleries, Glasgow, December, 1994 - March 1995, (touring exhibition)

1993 - 94

Drawing on These Shores: A View of British Drawing and Its Affinities, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston, November, 1993 - January, 1994

1993

Seven British Painters: Selected Masters of Post War British Art, Marlborough Fine Art, London, June - September, 1993

1992 - 93

British Figurative Painting of the 20th Century, British Council, Israel Museum, Jerusalem, November, 1992 - February, 1993

1991 - 92

Da Bacon a Oggi: L'Outsider nella Figurazione Britannica/From Bacon to Now: the Outsider in British Configuration, Palazzo Vecchio, Florence, December, 1991 - February, 1992

The Contemporary Art Society: Eighty Years of Collecting, Hayward Gallery, London, December, 1991 - January, 1992

Transformation of Appearance: Andrews, Auerbach, Bacon, Freud, Kossoff, Tate Gallery Collections Exhibition (touring exhibition)

1991

Affinities in Paint, Crane Gallery, London, June - July, 1991

1990 - 91

Glasgow's Great British Art Exhibition, Glasgow Museum and Art Galleries, McLellan Galleries, Glasgow, March - May, 1990

Tribute to Peter Fuller, Beaux Arts, Bath, October - November, 1990

The Pursuit of the Real: British Figurative Painting from Sickert to Bacon, Manchester City Art Gallery, Manchester, England, March 10 – April 22, 1990; traveled to the Barbican Art Gallery, London, England, May 10 – July 8, 1990; Glasgow City Art Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland, July 28 – April 22, 1990

The British Imagination: Twentieth Century Painting, Sculpture and Drawing, Hirschl & Adler, New York, NY, November, 1990 - January, 1991

1989 - 90

School of London: Works on Paper, Odette Gilbert Gallery, London, September - November, 1989

Leon Kossoff/Bill Woodrow, Saatchi Collection, London, November 1989 - February, 1990

Picturing People: British Figurative Art since 1945, British Council, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, December, 1989

1988

The British Picture, L.A. Louver Gallery, Venice, California, February 5 - March 5, 1988

Exhibition Road: Painters at the Royal College of Art, Royal College of Art, London, March - April, 1988

Past and Present, Arts Council of Great Britain, Manchester City Art Gallery (touring exhibition)

1987 - 88

British Figurative Painting, Pamela Auchincloss Gallery, Santa Barbara, California (touring exhibition)

1987

British Art in the 20th Century: The Modern Movement, Royal Academy of Arts, London, January - April, 1987

Works on Paper, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London, May, 1987

Current Affairs, Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, The British Art Council; traveled to Mucsarnok, Budapest; National Gallery, Prague; Zacheta, Warsaw (touring exhibition)

A School of London (Six Figurative Painters), The British Council; traveled to Kunstneres Hus, Oslo; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebeck; Museo d'Arte Moderna, Ca'Pesaro, Venice; and Kunstmuseum, Dusseldorf

Art of Our Time: The Saatchi Collection, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, August - September, 1987

Past and Present: Contemporary Artists Drawing from the Masters, South Bank Centre (touring exhibition)

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, January - February, 1985 (touring exhibition)

The British Show, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia, February 19 – March 24, 1985; traveled to Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, April 23 – June 9, 1985; and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia, July 5 – August 11, 1985

Rocks and Flesh: and Argument for British Drawing, Norwich School of Art Gallery, Norwich, September - October, 1985

Human Interest: Fifty Years of British Art about People, Cornerhouse, Manchester, October - November, 1985

1984

The Hard Won Image: Traditional Method and Subject in Recent British Art, Tate Gallery, London, July - September, 1984

The Forgotten Fifties, Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, Norwich, Coventry and London

The Proper Study: Contemporary Figurative Paintings from Britain, The British Council, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi and Bombay Centre for the Performing Arts

The British Art Show: Old Allegiances and New Directions 1979-1984, Arts Council of Great Britain, City of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (touring exhibition)

1982

British Watercolors and Drawings: 1950 to the Present Day, The British Council; traveled to China Art Gallery, Peking; Art Gallery and Shenyang Hans Kous Museum of Art, Hong Kong; Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh

1981 - 82

13 Britische Kunstler: Eine Ausstellung uber Malerei/13 British Artists: A Painting Exhibition, Neue Gallerie Sammlung Ludwig, Aachen, Kunstverein, Mannheim

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, CT, October 14, 1981 – January 3, 1982; traveled to Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA, January 29 – March 28, 1982

1980

Art Anglais d'aujourd'hui: Collection de la Tate Gallery, Londres, Musee Rath, Geneva, July - September, 1980

From Object to Object, Arts Council of Great Britain (touring exhibition)

1979 - 80

The British Arts Show, Arts Council of Great Britain, traveled to Mappin Art Gallery, Sheffield (touring exhibition)

1979

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, July 1979 (touring exhibition)

This Knot of Life, Paintings and Drawings by British Artists, L.A. Louver Gallery, Venice, California, November 27 - December 22, 1979

1976

The Human Clay: An Exhibition Selected by R.B. Kitaj, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London, August, 1976

1977

British Painting 1952-1977, Royal Academy of Arts, London, September - November, 1977

1974 - 75

Body and Soul, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

Drawings of People: and Exhibition of Drawings selected for the Arts Council by Patrick George, Arts Council of Great Britain (touring exhibition)

1974

British Painting '74, Arts Council of Great Britain, Hayward Gallery, London, September - November, 1974

1972

English Explorations: An Exhibition of Recent Works by Seven Artists Living and Working in London, Fischer Fine Art, London, August - September, 1972

1968

Helen Lessore and the Beaux Arts Gallery, Marlborough Fine Art, London

1967

Recent British Paintings from the Peter Stuyvesant Foundation Collection, Tate Gallery, London

1966

Survey of Figurative Painting, Hempstead Art Center, London

1964

54-64: Painting and Sculpture of a Decade, Tate Gallery, London

1963

British Painting in the Sixties: An Exhibition Organized by The Contemporary Art Society, Tate Gallery/Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, June 1963

Public Collections:

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia  
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Arts Council of Great Britain, London  
Astrup Fearnley Museum of Modern Art, Oslo, Norway  
Australian National Gallery, Canberra, Australia  
Berardo Museum, Collection of Modern & Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal  
Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Birmingham  
British Council, London  
British Museum, London  
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal  
Cecil Higgins Art Gallery and Bedford Museum, Bedford  
Chrysler Museum, Provincetown, Massachusetts  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio  
Contemporary Art Society, London  
Ferens Art Gallery, Kingston-Upon-Hull  
J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California  
Government Art Collection, London  
Guildhall Art Gallery, London  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.  
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
The Jewish Museum, New York, New York  
The Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds  
Leicester Museum and Galleries, Leicester  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California  
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, Denmark  
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York  
Museum of London, London  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York  
Museum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland  
Museum Würth, Künzelsau, Germany  
National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
National Portrait Gallery, London  
Rochdale Art Gallery, Lancashire  
Rooseum Center for Contemporary Art, Malmo, Sweden  
Royal College of Art Collection, London  
Rugby Museum, Warwickshire  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh  
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton  
Peter Stuyvesant Collection, London  
Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Wiltshire  
Tate Gallery, London  
Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Lugano, Switzerland  
Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Manchester  
Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut