

## **Paulina Peavy**

Born 1901, Colorado City, CO; Died 1999, Bethesda, MD.

Paulina Peavy's (1901-1999) provocative art spanned most of the twentieth century. A radical innovator, Peavy would become the first established fine artist to be publicly associated with the movement known as *astroculture*.

In 1927, Peavy attended the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles, where she joined a community that included members of the first American abstract art movement, Synchronism, as well as Hans Hofmann, for whom she served as a teaching assistant. She was deeply immersed in the study of ancient cultures, especially the Egyptians, probing the reaches of available esoteric literature and philosophy, thereby joining the ranks of other women channeler-artists including Hilma Af Klint, Georgiana Houghton, Emma Kunz, Agnes Pelton, and Ithell Colquhoun.

Peavy's art was featured in the 1936 exhibition *Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and a selection of thirty of her paintings was shown at the *Golden Gate International Exposition* in San Francisco in 1939. Since the rediscovery of her work in 2014, a number of solo and group exhibitions have been organized including *Paulina Peavy: An Etherian Channeler*, curated by Laura Whitcomb, at Beyond Baroque in Venice, California (2021), and *Paulina Peavy: Astrocultural Messenger*, at Andrew Edlin Gallery (2023). Her work was also featured in *Greater New York* at MoMA/PSI (2021), and *Supernatural America: The Paranormal in American Art*, at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (2022), *Paulina Peavy: Etherian Channeler*, a 224-page monograph written by Whitcomb, was published in 2023.

Peavy's art is included in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., Oregon State University, Corvallis, the Portland Museum of Art (Maine), and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

## **EDUCATION**

1919-23

Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Education, Oregon State College (Oregon State University), OR

1927-1932

Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA

1932-42

Art Educator, Board of Education, Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA

## **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

2023

Paulina Peavy: *Astrocultural Messenger*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2022

Paulina Peavy, The ADAA Art Show, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY

2021

Paulina Peavy: *An Etherian Channeler*, curated by Laura Whitcomb, Beyond Baroque, Venice, CA

2019

Paulina Peavy/Lacamo: *They Call us Unidentified*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2018

Paulina Peavy: *A Message to Paulina*, Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), Reston, VA

2016

Paulina Peavy: *The Artist Behind the Mask*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2003

Exhibition of paintings, New Morning Bakery, Corvallis, OR

2002

Exhibition at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Corvallis, OR

1961

Exhibition at Crown Gallery, New York, NY

1956

Exhibition of twenty-three paintings, Lacamo Gallery, New York, NY

1946

*Genesis, Atomic Forces of Nature*, Lawrence Terzian Gallery, New York, NY

Paintings in rotunda of Roxy Theater, New York, NY

1945

Exhibition of paintings at Jurart Gallery, New York, NY

1944

Exhibition of paintings at Staten Island Museum, Staten Island, NY

1943

Paulina Peavy, Argent Gallery, New York, NY

1942

Special exhibition of last supper mural accompanied by public lecture and music, private residence, Long Beach, CA

1941

Debut exhibition of last supper mural, San Diego Fine Arts Gallery (now San Diego Museum of Art)

1939

Exhibition of thirty paintings, Temple of Religion, Golden Gate International Exposition, Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA

1935

Exhibition at Delphic Studios, New York, NY  
Exhibition at Gumps Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
Exhibition at Stendahl Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1934

Exhibition at Stanford University Art Gallery, Stanford, CA  
Exhibition at Gumps Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1930

Watercolors at Peavy Studio of Art and Architecture, San Pedro, CA

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2024

Modern Art presentation on BCAM, Level 3, Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
*Open Ended: SFMOMA's Collection, 1900 to Now*, SFMOMA, CA  
*Lavinia*, Hannah Hoffman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2021

*Greater New York 2021*, MoMA PSI, New York, NY  
*Supernatural America: The Paranormal in American Art*, curated by Robert Cozzolino,  
Toledo Museum of Art, OH, Speed Museum, KY and Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN

2018

*April 14, 1561*, (Group Exhibition) Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY  
*Duende, Artists Translation Spirits*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2017

*Clestial Mechanics*, Artworks Advisory, New York, NY

1967

Display of art and poetry at convention of the Congress of Scientific Ufologists, Hotel Commodore, New York, NY

1948

American Cancer Society display, Fifth Avenue department store windows, New York, NY

1945

Summer group show, Jurart Gallery, New York, NY

1936

Independent Artists Group, Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, CA

Independent Artists Group, Stendahl Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Annual Exhibition, Foundation of Western Art, Los Angeles, CA

July group show, Stendahl Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles* (Annual Exhibition), Los Angeles County Museum, CA

1935

*Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles* (Annual Exhibition), Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, CA

May group show, Palos Verdes Library, Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Annual sculpture exhibition, Palos Verdes Library, Palos Verdes Estates, CA

San Francisco Art Association Annual Exhibition, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA

1934

Group watercolor show, Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, CA

1933

Professional Juried Division, Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, CA

Annual Exhibition, Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, CA

1927

Eisteddfod art exhibition, San Pedro, CA

## **AWARDS**

1985

Bronze medal at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual International Film & TV Festival of New York, *The Artist Behind the Mask*

1984

Silver Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York for Male Sex

1983

Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, *Is the Moon a*

*Burned-out Sun*

1982

Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, *Mountain of Myrrh*

1981

Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, *Paulina, Artist-Philosopher, An Artist of Vision*

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

2023

Whitcomb, Laura. *Paulina Peavy: Etherian Channeler*, Andrew Edlin Gallery.

2019

Kaplowitz, Jane. "Best of 2019: Artists' Artists," *Artforum*

O'Neill-Butler, Lauren. "Paulina Peavy and Lacamo," *Artforum*

Rudick, Nicole. "Art on a Higher Frequency: Paulina Peavy Attended a Séance and Tuned into the Future," *Art in America*

Deters, Alexandria. "Spirituality in Insanity, Revelation from Beyond; Paulina Peavy and Lacamo's Cosmic Interpretations at Andrew Edlin Gallery," *eazel*.

2018

Jenkins, Mark. "Paulina Peavy's postcards from the cosmos," *The Washington Post*

1958

Nebel, Long John, *WOR Radio* interview, New York, NY

<https://youtu.be/v8pijgSijHo?t=2h28m20s>

<https://youtu.be/v8pijgSijHo?t=3h13m26s>

1946

Madra, Margaret. "In Awe of Creative Powers, Impressionistic Painter of Biblical Parable Has Theories on Atom," *Brooklyn Eagle*

1943

Riley, Maud. "Electronics' in Paint," *Art Digest*

"Mystic Symbolism," *The New York Times*.

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

National Gallery, Washington DC

Oregon State University, Covallis, OR

Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA