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## David Park

Born: 1911 Boston, MA  
Died: 1960 Berkeley, CA

### 1911

Born in Boston, the third of four children born to Reverend and Mrs. Charles Edwards Park.

### 1925–28

Attends Loomis School in Windsor, CT. Accepted for Boston's Society of Independent Artists in 1926 and 1927.

### 1928–33

Moves to Los Angeles to live with his Aunt Edith Truesdell and attends the Otis Art Institute; moves to Berkeley, CA, to attend art classes at the University of California, Berkeley. Meets fellow student Gordon Newell and the two take an apartment in San Francisco, CA, while working as studio assistants to sculptor Ralph Stackpole. Marries Lydia Newell, Gordon's sister. Moves to Berkeley in 1931 and has two daughters, Natalie (1931) and Helen (1933).

### 1933–41

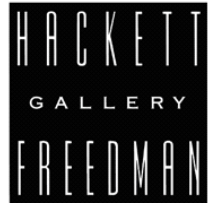
Joins the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and works on frescoes at John Muir High School, tapestries at Piedmont High School in Oakland, and a mural at the University of California, Berkeley, infirmary. Paintings reflect influence of social realism. In 1933, starts teaching part-time at UC Berkeley. Has solo shows at the Oakland Art Gallery and East-West Gallery, San Francisco, in 1934, and the San Francisco Museum of Art in 1936, 1939, and 1940. Moves family to Boston in 1936, in order to teach full-time at Winsor School in Brookline, MA. Begins to experiment with abstraction. Solo exhibits at Delphic Studios, New York, NY, and the New Gallery, Boston, MA. Family returns to Berkeley in 1941.

### 1942–49

Park works at General Cable Company in Emeryville, CA, for the duration of the war. Rejoins San Francisco Art Association. In 1946, has solo show at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA. Included in the Annual Exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Art. Begins teaching at California School of Fine Arts (San Francisco Art Institute) part-time in 1943; joins staff full-time along with Hassel Smith and Elmer Bischoff at behest of director Douglas MacAgy in 1945. Begins painting non-objectively in 1946; abstract works exhibited in 1948 at San Francisco Museum of Art along with works by Smith and Bischoff. In 1949, drives to Berkeley City Dump and destroys all recent abstract paintings, confirming a return to figuration.

### 1950–54

In 1951, Kids on Bikes wins top prize at San Francisco Art Association annual show. Resigns from California School of Fine Arts, 1952, along with Elmer Bischoff, in protest over the firing of friend and colleague Hassel Smith. Begins painting full-time. Has solo exhibitions at King Ubu Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Paul Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles, CA. Group exhibitions at the San Francisco Museum of Art; M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA; Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA.



**1955–60**

Appointed assistant professor of art at UC Berkeley in 1955. Solo exhibitions at M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA; Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY; Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA. Group exhibitions at Museu de Arte Moderna de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL; Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN; Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA; San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI; The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA; The Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; Wildenstein & Co, New York, NY. Due to terminal cancer abandons oil painting and turns to felt-tip markers and gouache. That summer, completes approximately 100 gouaches in ten weeks. Dies September 20, 1960, at home in Berkeley, CA, at age 49.

**Selected Solo Exhibitions****1936**

Delphic Studios, New York, NY

**1939**

New Gallery of Boston, Boston, MA

**1940**

San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA (also '35)

**1946**

California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA

**1954**

Paul Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

**1955**

Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA

**1959**

M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA

**1963**

Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY (also '62, '59)

**1964–65**

Berkeley Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, CA

**1968**

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

**1970**

Maxwell Galleries, San Francisco, CA

**1974**

Adele Bednarz Galleries, Los Angeles, CA

**1977–78**

Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA

**1985**

Salander-O'Reilly Galleries, New York, NY (also '83)

**1986**

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

**1988**

Stanford University Museum and Art Gallery, Palo Alto, CA

**1989**

The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

**2003**

David Park: A Singular Humanity, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA

**2006**

David Park: The 1930s and 40s, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA

**2008**

David Park: Works on Paper, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA

**Selected Group Exhibitions****1961–70**

San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA

The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, TX

**1971–80**

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

**1981–90**

Crocker Art Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany

Terra Museum of American Art, Evanston, IL

P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Berkeley Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

**1991–00**

Homage to the San Francisco Art Institute: Artists Who Transformed American Culture, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Celebrating Modern Art: The Anderson Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Making Art Histories: On the Trail of David Park, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

### **2001–10**

Spring, Bay Area Figuration Show, California State University, Sacramento University Library Gallery, Sacramento, CA

The Figure in Context: Bay Area Figurative Art, di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA

The Not-So-Still Life: A Century of California Painting and Sculpture, San Jose Museum of Art and the Pasadena Museum of California Art, CA

San Francisco and the Second Wave: The Blair Collection of Bay Area Abstract Expressionism, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

Here's The Thing: The Single Object Still Life, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY

Paint Made Flesh, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN (also Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., and Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY)

### **Collections**

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA

Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN

Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

Berkeley Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL

Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, MA

Palmer Museum of Art, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL

California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA

University of New Mexico Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA

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#### **1952**

*Contemporary American Painting, with statement by Park*, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.

#### **1957**

Mills, Paul, *Contemporary Bay Area Figurative Painting*, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA.

**1959**

Hunter, Sam, *Modern American Paintings and Sculpture*, Dell Publishing Co., New York, NY.

Howe, Thomas Carr, *David Park: Recent Paintings*, Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY.

*David Park: Exhibition of Paintings, with statement by Park*, M. H. de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, CA.

**1961**

Allen Weller, *Contemporary American Paintings and Sculpture*, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.

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McChesney, Mary Fuller, *A Period of Exploration: San Francisco 1945–1950*, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA.

**1981**

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**1984**

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**1985**

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Schwartz, Sanford, "The Art World: David Park," *The New Yorker*, New York, NY, October 28, pp. 88–93.

**1987**

Baker, Howard, Carl Belz, Richard Diebenkorn, Henry Geldzahler, David Park, Phyllis Tuchman, *David Park (1911–1960)*, Salander-O'Reilly Gallery, New York, NY.

**1988**

Armstrong, Richard, *David Park*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

Mills, Paul, *The New Figurative Art of David Park*, Capra Press, Santa Barbara, CA.

*The David Park Scroll*, Bedford Arts, San Francisco, CA.

**1990**

Jones, Caroline A., *Bay Area Figurative Art, 1950–1965*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.

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**2003**

Bigelow, Helen Park, and W. S. Di Piero, *David Park: A Singular Humanity*, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

Baker, Kenneth, "When David Park put life back into painting," *San Francisco Chronicle*, San Francisco, CA, September 27.

Fischer, Jack, "An Artist's Fevered Finish," *San Jose Mercury News*, San Jose, CA, October 15.

**2006**

Berkson, Bill, *David Park: The 1930s and 40s*, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

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**2007**

Beam, Alex, "The rebirth of painter David Park," boston.com, Boston, MA, November 28.

**2008**

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Baker, Kenneth, "David Park Evokes Simple Humanity," *San Francisco Chronicle*, San Francisco, CA.