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James Weeks

Born: 1922 Oakland, CA

Died: 1998 Boston, MA

1922

Born in Oakland, California, the son of Anson Weeks, band leader ("Dancin' with Anson") and Ruth Daly Weeks, classical pianist. One elder brother, Jack, born in 1921.

1927

Anson Weeks' band began a seven-year engagement at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco. James Weeks enrolls at the Pacific Heights Grammar School.

1930-1933

During the early 1930's, James joins children's art class at California School of Fine Arts.

1934-1936

Begins Marina Junior High School and meets William Wolff, who becomes a fellow artist and lifelong friend.

1936-1940

Enters college-preparatory Lowell High School where William Wolff and Richard Diebenkorn are his fellow students.

1939

Sees two important exhibitions: Picasso at the San Francisco Museum of Art, and a painting exhibition at the 1939 International Exposition, which includes Botticelli's "Birth of Venus."

1940

Graduates high school. In the autumn, he takes painting classes in the evenings at the California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco, while working at Wells Fargo Bank for support. At CSFA, he studies with traditionalist painter William Gaw. Especially interested in Cezanne, Marsden Hartley and Walt Kuhn.

1941

Switches to day classes. Develops friendships with fellow art students Jan Hinchman and Sturges Mower. Continues working with William Gaw. Sees exhibition of French painting from David to the present at M. H. de Young Museum, San Francisco, and is especially impressed by Courbet.

1943-46

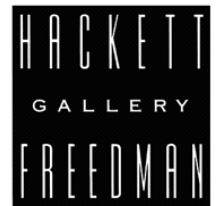
Enlists in the US Air Force.

1944-45

Stationed with the Air Force in Ipswich, England.

1946

Returns to CSFA on FI Bill. Simultaneously attends Marian Hartwell School of Design, San Francisco. During this period, he studies with Edward Corbett, Paul Forster, David Park, Hassel Smith, and Clay Spohn at CSFA, and with Marian Hartwell at her school. Hartwell, Gaw and Park especially are influential. Friendships with painters at the school include: Jeremy Anderson, Elmer Bischoff, Ernest Briggs, Lawrence



Calcagno, Richard Diebenkorn, Edward Dugmore, John Grillo, John Hultberg, William Ivey, Jack Jefferson, Walter Kuhlman, Frank Lobdell and George Stillman.

1947

Continues studying throughout the year at CSFA. Meets Clyfford Still and admires his paintings, but does not study with him.

1948

Begins teaching part-time at CSFA. On faculty with Bischoff, Corbett, Diebenkorn, Park, Still and others. Becomes teaching assistant to Marian Hartwell.

1949

Marries Lynn Williams. Takes a studio with William Wolff on Magnolia Street where they work until 1955.

1950

First significant museum exhibition in the spring: group show of work by faculty at CSFA, held at the M. H. de Young Museum, San Francisco.

1951

Leaves CSFA in early 1951 in general exodus following resignation of Douglas MacAgy as Director (effective fall 1950). First solo show: Lucien Labaudt Gallery, San Francisco. In the summer, he travels to Mexico to study at Escuela de Pintura y Escultura, Mexico City. Returns to the Bay Area in the fall and takes a job at the Railway Express Shipping Company at night and paints during the day. First child, Rebecca, is born.

1952

Receives Abraham Rosenberg Traveling Fellowship, given through the San Francisco Art Association to a Bay Area artist. In November, he begins working for Foster and Kleiser Sign Painting.

1953-57

During the day, he paints advertising billboards for Foster and Kleiser. Paints at night. Much work from this period is subsequently destroyed, including a series of paintings based on heroic subjects. Studies science of optics; reads William Carlos Williams. Begins friendships with painters Theophilus Brown and Paul Wonner.

1953

Solo exhibition at California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco where he shows a series of studio paintings from the previous year.

1954

Shares the Magnolia Street studio with Elmer Bischoff. Engages in figure drawing sessions with Bischoff, Diebenkorn and Park.

1955

Solo show at 6 Gallery, San Francisco. Second daughter, Ellen, is born.

1957

Included in Oakland Art Museum's "Contemporary Bay Area Figurative Painting," curated by Paul Mills, which defined for the first time a "school" of figurative painting centering around Weeks, Diebenkorn, Bischoff, Park, etc. Weeks later destroyed the paintings shown there (exhibition travels to Los Angeles County Museum of Art). Leaves sign painting for free-lance design work and brief stint as staff artist at KPIX-TV. Associates during 1950's with Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who provides sympathetic criticism of his art.

1958

Solo exhibition at East-West Gallery, San Francisco; shows *Woman Singing* 1957. Returns to teaching part-time at CSFA, where he remains on faculty until 1967. Takes studio on Broadway, with painter John Saccaro. Son, Benjamin, is born.

1959-60

Accepts position vacated by Richard Diebenkorn at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, teaching graduate painting. First show in New York City: solo exhibition at Pointdexter Gallery: *Two Musicians*, 1960, exhibited. Subsequent painting shows in 1961, 1963, 1965, 1968, 1974. Teaches art classes at San Francisco Museum of Art.

1961

Receives Purchase Prize from Howard University Washington, DC. Wins a Price Award at Winter Invitational, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco. Receives the same honor the following year. Included in "Corcoran Biennial," Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. CSFA changes name to San Francisco Art Institute.

1962

Life drawing sessions with Paul Wonner and Theophilus Brown. Solo exhibition at the Carnegie Institute of Art in Pittsburgh, PA. "Four Artists," at the Felix Landau Gallery, Los Angeles. "Five Decades of the Figure," at the State University of Iowa at Iowa City. Group exhibition at the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT.

1964

First solo exhibition in Los Angeles at the Felix Landau Gallery; shows "Benjamin and Ellen in a Garden," 1962 (also 1967, 1970). Group exhibition at Carnegie Institute of Art Pittsburgh.

1965

Solo exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Included in "Contemporary American Paintings," at the Kranner Art Museum, University of Illinois atampaign. Visiting artist at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

1966

Figure drawing sessions with Elmer Bischoff, Julius Hatofsky and Albin Light. Included in "Recent Still Life," at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, MA. Switches from oil to acrylic paint for the majority of subsequent paintings.

1967

Moves with family to Los Angeles to take teaching position at the University of California at Los Angeles, on faculty with Richard Diebenkorn. Teaches at UCLA until 1970. Engages again in figure drawing sessions with Diebenkorn and Theophilus Brown. Participates in "Painters Behind Painters," at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco. Second Felix Landau Gallery solo exhibition, and the third in 1970. Becomes friends with a group of artists including Sam Amato, William Brice, Les Diller, Eliot Elgart and Charles Garabedian.

1969

Awarded research grant from UCLA to do "large-scale figure painting." Begins teaching during the summers through 1972 at the Skowhegan School, Skowhegan, Maine. Included in "Collector's Choice," at the Newport Pavillion, Newport, California.

1970

Moves to Massachusetts to accept a teaching position as associate professor at Boston University, which he holds for over eighteen years, concentrating primarily on graduate painting courses. Participates in Boston University Art Program at Tanglewood, summers 1970, 1972, 1973. Participates in "Expo '70," Osaka, Japan.

1971

Solo exhibition at Boston University Art Gallery; shows *Kitchen Still Life*, 1967, reworked in 1973.

1973

Invited to teach at Brandeis University in Waltham Massachusetts as the Salzman Visiting Artist. Included in "Period of Exploration, 1945-1950," at the Oakland Museum of California Art, Oakland, CA.

1974

Solo exhibition at the Pointdexter Gallery.

1975

Included in "Painted in Boston: Institute of Contemporary Art," in Boston, MA (travels to Colby College Art Museum, Waterville, Maine). Included in "Recent Acquisitions," at the Oakland Museum of California Art, Oakland, CA. Included in "Boston 200: Bicentennial Collection," at the Institute of Contemporary Art, in Boston, MA. Included in "Four Figurative Artists," at the Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA.

1976

Solo exhibition at Sunne Savage Gallery, Boston. Included in "America 1976," at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. Included in "A Selection of American Art: Skowhegan School, 1947-1976," at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA (travels to Colby College Art Museum, Waterville, Maine). Receives commission for painting from the US Department of the Interior in conjunction with its traveling exhibition honoring the Bicentennial. Included in "Painting and Sculpture in California: The Modern Era," San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA (travels to National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC).

1977

Solo exhibition at the Charles Campbell Gallery, in San Francisco.

1978

Solo exhibition at the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA (travels to the Oakland Museum of California Art, Oakland, CA).

1980

Solo exhibition at the Sunne Savage Gallery, Boston. Included in "Academy Institute Purchase Exhibition," American Academy and Institute of Arts & Letters, New York (Purchase Prize).

1981

Solo exhibition at the Charles Campbell Gallery, San Francisco, CA. Visiting Artist, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

1982

Included in "Contemporary Landscape," at the Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX. Included in "Perspective on Contemporary Realism," Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA (travels to Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, IL).

1983

Included in "Directions in Bay Area Painting: A Survey of Three Decades- 1940s-1960s," at the University of California, Davis, CA.

1984

Included in "American and European Painting and Sculpture," at the LA Louvre Gallery, Los Angeles (also 1986).

1985

Solo exhibition at Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York.

1986

Included in "Landscape, Seascape, Cityscape," at the Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans, LA.

1988

Solo exhibition at the Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York. Retires from teaching.

1989

Solo exhibiton at the John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

1992

Solo exhibition at the Campbell-Thiebaud Gallery in San Francisco, CA.

1999

Solo exhibition at the Campbell-Thiebaud Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA.

Collections

American Federation of Arts, New York, NY
Capitol Records, Los Angeles, CA
Crysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
Commercial Union Assurance Company, Boston, MA
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Howard University, Washington, DC
Joseph H. Hirshhorn Collection, Washington, DC
Lytton Center of Visual Arts, Los Angeles, CA
Maine Savings Bank of Portland, Portland, ME
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
Ringling Brothers Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL
San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA
Seattle First National Bank, Seattle, WA
The Oakland Museum of California Art, Oakland, CA