

Thomas Downing

(1928 - 1985)

One-Man Exhibitions:

- 1959 Sculptors Studio, Washington, D.C.
- 1960 Origo Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1961 Jefferson Place Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1962 Allan Stone Gallery, New York
- 1963 Stable Gallery, New York
- 1966 The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Thomas Downing: Recent Paintings
- 1967 Henri Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Allan Stone Gallery, New York
- 1968 Allan Stone Gallery, New York
La Jolla Museum of Art
Phoenix Art Museum (both Thomas Downing Paintings 1962-1968)
A.M. Sachs Gallery, New York
- 1970 Pyramid Gallery Ltd., Washington, D.C.
- 1972 Pyramid Gallery Ltd., Washington, D.C.
- 1973 La Galerie Arnaud, Paris
- 1975 Pyramid Gallery Ltd., Washington, D.C.
Tibor de Nagy Gallery, Houston
- 1979 Osuna Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1980 Osuna Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1982 Salander O'Reilly Gallery New York
- 1985 Harm Bouckaert Gallery, New York
Addison/Ripley Gallery, Ltd., Washington, D.C.
Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
- 1989 Tom Downing: 1965-1970, Addison Ripley Gallery, Ltd., Washington, D.C.
- 1994 Selected Paintings: 1971-1975, Addison/Ripley Gallery, Ltd., Washington, D.C.
- 2002 Origin of the Dot, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington DC
- 2007 Thomas Downing: 1963-1976, Addison Ripley Fine Art, Warner Office Building,
Washington DC
- 2007 Thomas Downing: Washington Color School Painter, Gary Snyder Project Space, New
York, NY

Group Exhibitions:

- 1963 28th Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting.
The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
New Experiments in Art, Decordova Museum of Art, Lincoln, Massachusetts
- 1964 Nine American Painters. Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.
Post Painterly Abstraction, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
- 1965 1 + 1 = 3. University Art Museum, University of Texas at Austin
A Contemporary Collection of Painting and Sculpture (selected from the collection of

- The Responsive Eye. The Museum of Modern Art, New York
 Colorists 1950-1965. San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco
- 1965 The Washington Color Painters, Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, D.C.;
 University Art Museum, University of Texas at Austin; Art Gallery, University of
 California, Santa Barbara; Rose Art Galleries, Brandeis University, Waltham,
 Massachusetts; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
- 1966 Sculpture and Painting Today (selections from the collection of Susan Morse Hilles).
 Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- The 161st Annual Exhibition of American Painting. The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine
 Arts, Philadelphia
- Harry N. Abrams Family Collection. The Jewish Museum, New York
- Systemic Painting. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
- The Hard Edge Trend. National Collection of Fine Arts, Washington, D.C.
- Past and Present: 250 Years of American Art. The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington,
 D.C.
- 1967 30th Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary Painting. The Corcoran Gallery of Art, New York
- 1967 1967 Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art, New
 York
- 1970 Color Field Painting. Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
 20 Years of Washington Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore
 Ten Washington Artists: 1950-1970. The Edmonton Art Gallery, Edmonton, Canada
 The Vincent Melzac Collection: Modernist American Art featuring New York Abstract
 Expressionism and Washington Color Painting. The Corcoran Gallery of Art,
 Washington, D.C.
- 1974 Selections from the Permanent Collection. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1975 Modern Painting: 1900 to the Present. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
 Tibor de Nagy Gallery, Houston
- 1980 Washington Color Painters, Fendrick Gallery, Washington, D.C.
 Osuna Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1990 Washington Color: The First Generation Painters. Orlando Museum of Art
- 2007 Generations of the Washington Color School Revisited, The George Washington University
 Luther W. Brady Art Gallery, Washington DC
- 2007 Washington Color School: Selections from the Artery Collection, International Arts &
 Artists' Hillyer Art Space
- 2007 Lyrical Color: Morris Louis, Gene Davis, Kenneth Noland and the Washington Color
 School, The Phillips Collection, Washington DC
- 2007 OPTIC NERVE: Perceptual Art of the 1960s, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH
- 2008 New American Abstraction 1950-1970, Gary Snyder Project Space, New York, NY
- 2008 Color Field Revisited, Gary Snyder Project Space, New York, NY
- 2008 New American Abstraction 1960-1975, Gary Snyder Project Space, New York, NY

Teaching Positions:

- 1965-68 Corcoran School of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1970 New School of Visual Art, New York City, New York
- 1975 University of Houston, Houston, Texas

Selected Collections:

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia
 Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut
 The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
 National Museum of American Art, Washington, D.C.
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco
 Metropolitan Museum of Art Center, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida
 Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond, Virginia
 Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond
 Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena, California
 Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City
 The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
 The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
 University Art Museum, Berkeley, California
 Sunrise Museums, Charleston, West Virginia
 The Denver Art Museum, Denver
 Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee
 The Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina
 George Washington University Collection, Washington, D.C.
 La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla
 Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix
 Stanford University Museum and Art Gallery, Stanford, California
 Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington
 Dimock Gallery, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
 University of the District of Columbia Collection, Washington, D.C.
 Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C.
 The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore
 University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville
 Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
 Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.
 Georgetown University Collection, Washington, D.C.
 Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Alabama
 Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, Massachusetts

Selected Bibliography:

Ahlander, Leslie Judd. "An Artist Speaks: Tom Downing." *The Washington Post*,
 9 September 1962, sec. G, p. 4.
 "The Emerging Art of Washington." *Art International* 6 (November 1962): 30-33.
 Alloway, Lawrence. "Background to Systemic," *ARTnews* 65(October 1966): 31.
 "Art: Neck & Neck," *Time* 90(22 December 1967): 46.
 Ashton, Dore. "Exhibition of Systemic Painting at the Guggenheim Museum." *Arts and*
Architecture 83 (November 1966): 7.
 Baro, Gene. "Washington and Detroit." *Studio International* 174(July-August 1967):50-51
 Bourdon, David. "Washington Letter." *Art International* 17(February 1973):22.
 Campbell, Lawrence. "Reviews and Previews: Thomas W. Downing." *ARTnews* 66
 (October 1967):44.

Coplans, John. "Post Painterly Abstraction." *Art International* 8 (Summer 1964): 5-9.

Edgar, Natalie. "Reviews and Previews: Thomas Downing." *ARTnews* 63(February 1965):16.

Forgey, Benjamin. "Making Conflicting Elements Work Harmoniously." *The Sunday Star*, Washington, D.C., 4 June 1972, sec. B, p.7.

"Galleries: A Fine Sense of Color..." *The Washington Star*, 11 March 1979, sec. E, p.4.

Greenberg, Clement. "Post Painterly Abstraction." *Art International* 8(Summer 1964):63-65.

Grossberg, Jacob. "In the Galleries: Thomas Downing." *Arts* 39(February 1965): 65.

Judd, Donald. "Reviews: Tom Downing." *Arts* 38(November 1963):35.

Kurtz, Stephen A. "Reviews and Previews: Thomas Downing." *ARTnews* 67 (December 1968):11-12

"Reviews and Previews: Thomas Downing." *ARTnews* 67(December 1968):16

Lippard, Lucy R. "New York Letter." *Art International* 9(March 1965):51.

Mahoney, J.W. "Thomas Downing: A Practice of Timelessness." *New Art Examiner* 12(May 1984): 10-1,11-1.

Richard, Paul. "A New Show of Canvases by Thomas Downing." *The Washington Post*, 25 October 1970, sec. H, p. 3.

"Downing Back Home: 'New Art' Comes Full Circle." *The Washington Post*, 10 March 1979, sec.B, pp. 1,3.

"Colors of Confidence." *The Washington Post*, 12 April 1980, sec. C, p. 7.

Rose, Barbara. "New York Letter." *Art International* 7(December 1963):65.

"The Primacy of Color." *Art International* 8(May 1964):22-26.

Rose, Barbara and Sandler Irving. "Sensibility of the Sixties." *Art in America* 55(January 1967):46.

Rosenthal, Nan. "New York: Gallery Notes." *Art in America* 53(February 1965):114.

Sharpless, T.A. "Reviews and Previews: Thomas Downing." *ARTnews* 61(September 1962):16.

Stevens, Elizabeth. "Washington Color Painters." *Arts* 40(November 1965):30.

Swenson, G.R. "Reviews and Previews: Thomas Downing." *ARTnews* 62(October 1963):12.

(the following is an excerpt from: *The Vincent Melzac Collection, Part One: The Washington Color Painters* – catalog presented by the Palm Beach Sponsors Committee of the Museum of the Palm Beaches, Inc. Norton Gallery and School of Art, Palm Beach, Florida. 1974)

The Washington Color School: General References

Books:

Ahlender, Leslie Judd. *Art in Washington 1969*, Washington, D.C.: Acropolis Books, 1968.

Artists Equity Association, *Washington Artists Today*, Washington, D.C.: H.K. Press, 1967.

Friedman, B.H. ed. *The School of New York-Some Younger Artists*, New York: Grove Press, 1959.

Greenberg, Clement. *Art and Culture*, Boston: Beacon Press, 1961.

Hunter, Sam. "Art Since 1945-The United States," *New Art Around the World*, New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1958.

Modern American Painting and Sculpture, New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1959.

Lucie-Smith, Edward. *Late Modern. The Visual Arts Since 1945*. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1969.

McDarragh, Fred W. and Gloria S. *The Artist's World in Pictures*, New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1961.

Rose, Barbara. *American Art Since 1900*, New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1967.

Rosenberg, Harold. *The Anxious Object: Art Today and Its Audience*, New York: Horizon Press, 1964.

Sandler, Irving. *The Triumph of American Painting. A History of Abstract Expressionism*, New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1970.

Catalogues:

Alloway, Lawrence. *Systemic Painting*, New York: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1966.

Arnason, H.H. *American Abstract Expressionists and Imagists*, New York: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1961.

Art in Washington, Washington, D.C.: Washington Gallery of Modern Art, 1968.

Collection of Vincent Melzac, Washington, D.C.: American University, 1957.

Colorists 1950-1965, San Francisco: San Francisco Museum of Art, 1965.

The Face of the Fifties, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Museum of Art, 1961.

Greenberg, Clement. *Post-Painterly Abstraction*, Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum, 1964

Harithas, James. *The Washington Painters*, Sarasota: The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, 1969.

Hudson, Andrew. *Ten Washington Artists: 1950-1970*, Edmonton, Canada: The Edmonton Art Gallery, 1970.

Hunter, Sam, *Art Since 1950*, Seattle: Seattle World's Fair, 1962.

Interpretive Notes on an Exhibition of Five Contemporary Artists from the Collection of Vincent Melzac, Washington, D.C.: C.I.A. Fine Arts Commission, 1968.

Johnson, Diana; Corkery, Arlene; Gross, Ellen Hope, *Washington-Twenty Years*, Baltimore: The Baltimore Museum of Art, 1970.

Landau, Ellen Gross; Rose, Barbara. *The Vincent Melzac Collection*, Washington, D.C.: Corcoran Gallery, 1971.

Nordland, Gerald. *The Washington Color Painters*, Washington, D.C.: Washington Gallery of Modern Art, 1965.

Seitz, Willaim. *The Responsive Eye*, New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1964.

Washington Art, Washington, D.C.: Institute of Contemporary Arts, 1965.

Washington Artists, Washington, D.C., Washington Workshop Center, 1954.