

## RACKSTRAW DOWNES

- 1939 Born in Kent, England
- 1961 BA in English Literature, Cambridge University, England
- 1961-62 English-Speaking Union Traveling Fellowship
- 1963-64 BFA and MFA in Painting, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
- 1964-65 Post-Graduate Fellowship. University of Pennsylvania
- 1967-79 Teaches painting at the University of Pennsylvania
- 1969 Marjorie Heilman Visiting Artist, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania
- 1971 Yaddo Residence Fellowship
- 1974 Ingram Merrill Fellowship
- 1978 CAPS
- 1980 National Endowment for the Arts Grant
- 1989 Academy-Institute Award, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters
- 1998 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship
- 1999 Inducted into the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters
- 2009 Delivered Ninth Annual Raymond Lecture for the Archives of American Art
- 2009 The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship

The artist lives and works in New York City and Presidio, Texas

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 *Rackstraw Downes*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, NY, Sept 5-Oct 14
- 2014 *Rackstraw Downes*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, NY, April 3- May 3
- 2012 *Rackstraw Downes*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, NY, Oct. 11 – Nov. 24
- 2010-11 *Rackstraw Downes: Onsite Paintings, 1974–2009*, The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York; travels to: Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME; Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC
- Rackstraw Downes: Under the Westside Highway*, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT
- 2010 *Rackstraw Downes: A Selection of Drawings 1980-2010*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 *Building the Collection: Rackstraw Downes*, Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
- Rackstraw Downes*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, New York
- 2007 *Rackstraw Downes*, Texas Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2005 *Rackstraw Downes: Paintings and Studies*, Dunn and Brown Contemporary, Dallas, Texas

## **Solo Exhibitions (continued)**

- 2004      *Rackstraw Downes: New Paintings*, Betty Cuninghams Gallery, New York, New York  
*Drawing as Part of the Process*, New York Studio School, New York, New York
- 2003      *Water-Flow Monitoring Installations on the Rio Grande near Presidio, TX*, The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas
- 2000      Robert Miller Gallery, New York, New York
- 1999      *The Chinati Paintings*, The Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas
- 1998      *Working Drawings*, Marlborough Gallery, New York, New York
- 1997      Marlborough Gallery, New York, New York (exh. cat., with essay by Hayden Herrera)
- 1994      Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts
- 1992      Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 1991      Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, New York
- 1988      *Drawings*, Texas Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 1987      Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- 1984      Hirschl & Adler Modern, New York, New York (exh. cat., with essay by John Yau)
- 1980      Kornblee Gallery, New York, New York  
Tatischeff & Company, New York, New York
- 1978      Kornblee Gallery, New York, New York  
Swain School of Design, New Bedford, Massachusetts
- 1975      Kornblee Gallery, New York, New York
- 1974      Kornblee Gallery, New York, New York
- 1972      Kornblee Gallery, New York, New York
- 1969      Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania  
Marlin McLeaf Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

## **Group Exhibitions**

- 2017      *Space as Narrative*, Concord Center for the Visual Arts, Concord, MA, October 19 – November 26  
*American Genre: Contemporary Painting*, Institute of Contemporary Art at Maine College of Art, Portland, ME, July 20 - September 15, 2017  
*Becoming: 25 Hotchkiss Artists*, Tremaine Art Gallery, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, CT, May 6- June 18  
*Painted Landscapes*, Heritage Museum & Gardens, Sandwich, MA, April 15 – October 9  
*The State of New York Painting: Works of Intimate Scale by 26 Colorists*, The Kingsborough Art Museum, Brooklyn, NY, March 4 – April 5
- 2016      *Landscape*, Marlborough Chelsea, June 23- August 5  
*Hey You! ~ Who Me?*, Curated by Rob Storr, Yale University School of Art, April 4 – June 5  
*Differing Views*, George Adams Gallery, March 1 – April 30  
*A Visit with Old Friends: Selections from the Lannan Collection*, Lannan Foundation Gallery,

## Group Exhibitions (continued)

- Santa Fe, NM, Jan. 30 – March 6
- 2015- 16 *Social Ecologies*, The Brooklyn Rail Curatorial Projects, December 10, 2015 – February 21, 2016
- 2015 *Intimacy in Discourse: Reasonable and Unreasonable Sized Paintings*, Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ, Oct. 18 – Dec. 22, 2015
- 2012 *From Life*, Steven Harvey Projects, New York, NY, Nov. 14 – Dec. 23  
*Paved Paradise*, DC Moore Gallery, New York, NY, Sept. 6 - 29
- 2011 *Thaw*, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York, NY, February 26 – April 2
- 2008 *Mythic Landscapes of America*, The Heckscher Museum of Art, Huntington, NY  
*Sparks! The William T. Kemper Collecting Initiative*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO  
*Urban Landscapes*, Elisabeth Harris Gallery, New York, NY  
*Painting Structures: Specificity and Synthesis*, List Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA; Travelling exhibition: The Painting Center, New York, NY  
*The Urban Landscape*, Susan Maasch Fine Arts, Portland, ME
- 2007 *Sheldon Survey: An Invitational*, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska  
*Real Time – Focus: Redefining the Painted Landscape*, Bernarducci Meisel Gallery, New York, New York  
*The Constructed Landscape, Rackstraw Downes, Linden Frederick, Yvonne Jacquette, John Moore, Dennis Pinette*, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine
- 2006 *Got Cow? Cattle in American Art, 1820-2000*, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York  
*Five Landscape Paintings*, University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, Maine
- 2005 *Land*, Dunn and Brown Contemporary, Dallas, Texas  
*A Lucien Day Retrospective*, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, Vermont
- 2003 *Celebrating Central Park. 1853-2003*, Hirschl & Adler Galleries, New York, New York  
*Skowhegan 2002-2003 Faculty Exhibition*. ICA, Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine  
*Facing Reality. The Seavest Collection of Contemporary Realism*. Neuberger Museum, SUNY, Purchase, New York
- 2002 *poly.auto.gragh.y*. Center Gallery, Fordam University at Lincoln Center, New York, New York  
*Looking at America*. Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut
- 2001 *ReAppearance, Realism in Contemporary Art*. Simmons Visual Arts Gallery, Brenan University, Gainesville, Georgia. (exh. cat.)  
*Fresh Kills: Artists respond to the Closure of the Staten Island Landfill*. Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, New York (exh. cat.)
- 2000 *Inside/Out. The Space of Landscape & Architecture*. Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts. Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
*Making Choices. Modern Art despite Modernism*. Museum of Modern Art. New York, New York, Curated by Robert Storr. (exh. cat.)  
*Crossing State Lines: Texas Art From The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas

## Group Exhibitions (continued)

- New York Perspectives II*. MB Modern, New York, New York
- Landscape 2000. The New Topography. Late Twentieth Century American Landscape Painting*. The University of Wyoming Art Museum, Laramie, Wyoming
- In the Spirit of Landscape V*. Nielsen Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
- Artists in Maine*. Hay Gallery. Portland, Maine
- Elogio de lo Visible*, Galeria Marlborough, Madrid, Spain (essay by Fernando Huici)
- 1999 *Green Woods and Crystal Waters*, Philbrook Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma (exh. cat.)
- Urban Mythologies: The Bronx Represented Since the 1960's*, Bronx Museum, New York, New York
- Darkness and Light*, Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, West Virginia. *Contemporary American Realist Drawings*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (exh. cat.)
- 1998 *Summer*, Lennon, Weinberg, Inc., New York, New York
- Beyond The Mountains: The Contemporary American Landscape*, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, North Carolina
- Tendances Actuelles de la Peinture a Houston, Texas, oeuvres sur papier*, Musee de l'Echevinage, Santes, France (exh. cat. with artist's statement)
- Landscapes*, Meyerson & Nowinski, Seattle, Washington, DC
- Malcolm Morley, Ellen Phelan, Rackstraw Downes*. Suzanne Hillsbury Gallery, Detroit, Michigan
- 1997-98 *Best of the Season: Selected Works from 1996-97 Gallery Exhibitions*, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut
- Landscape, Seen & Unseen*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York. Traveling exhibition: Schafler Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York
- CityScapes*, Marlborough Gallery, New York, New York
- Landscape: The Pastoral to the Urban*, Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York
- 1997 *Art 1997 Chicago: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Expo of International Galleries Featuring Modern and Contemporary Art*, Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois
- Finders, Keepers*, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas, 1997 (exh. cat.)
- 1996 *Realism After 7 a.m. - Realist Painting After Edward Hopper*, curated by Richard Milazzo, The Hopper House, Nyack, New York (exh. cat.)
- Reinterpreting Landscape*, Maier Museum of Art, Randolph- Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia (exh. cat. with essay by Hearne Pardee)
- 1996 *Rediscovering the Landscape of the Americas*, Gerald Peters Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Traveling exhibition curated by Alan Gussow & Gayle Maxon- Edgerton. (exh. cat.)
- 1995 *Texas Myths and Realities*, Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas
- Urban Landscape; Yvonne Jacquette, Rackstraw Downes, John Moore*, Wright State University Galleries, Dayton, Ohio
- The City: New York Visions 1900-1995*, ACA Galleries, New York City, New York
- The Urban Landscape*, Wunderlich & Co, New York and The Murray Collection, Scranton, Pennsylvania
- Painting, the Intimate View*, curated by Betty Cuningham. The Painting Center, New York, New York

## Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 1994            *10 + 10*, New York Studio School, New York, New York  
*The Long View*, curated by Robert Storr, Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York  
*New York Realism Past and Present*, curated by Douglas Dreishpoon, Tampa Museum, Tampa, Florida, and 5 museums in Japan (exh. cat.)
- 1992            *American Realism and Figurative Art: 1955-1990*, The Miyagi Museum of Art, Japan, and other cooperating museums, curated by John Arthur (exh. cat.)  
*Island Inspired*, Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, Texas  
*The Map is Not the Territory*, Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, Philadelphia College of Arts and Design, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (exh. cat.)  
*The Artist's Eye*, curated by Rackstraw Downes, visiting curator Colby College Museum of Art, Colby College, Waterville, Maine  
*City Views*, Staller Center for the Arts, SUNY at Stony Brook, New York
- 1991            *Drawings By*, curated by John Lees, Proctor Art Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York  
*Alienation in the Industrial Landscape*, First Street Gallery, New York, New York  
*Fairfield Porter and Rackstraw Downes: The Act of Seeing*, Johnson Gallery, Middlebury College, Vermont (interview with Emmie Donadio)  
*The Painted Landscape: Seen, Translated, Imagined, Fantasized, Conjured, Constructed, Apprehended, and Eulogized*, Genovese Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Motion as Metaphor, The Automobile in Art*, curated by Sue Scott, Virginia Beach Center for the Arts, Virginia Beach, Virginia (exh. cat.)  
*The Contemporary American Landscape*, curated by Marianne Friedland, Philharmonic Center for the Arts, Naples, Florida (exh. cat.)
- 1990            *Wolf Kahn/Rackstraw Downes/Paul Resika*, Kornbluth Gallery, Fairlawn, New Jersey  
*Mixed-Use District*, The Institute of Art & Urban Resources, New York, New York
- 1989-90        *The Landscape Observed*, Decker and Meyerhoff Galleries, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland  
*Urban Images*, Madison Art Center, Madison, Wisconsin  
*Landscape: A Travelogue Painted from Memory, Imagination or Reality*, Ruth Siegel Gallery, New York, New York
- 1989-90        *Paintings and Sculpture by the Candidates for Art Awards*, American Academy and Institute for Arts and Letters, New York, New York  
*City By Day/City By Night*, Gallery Henoeh, New York, New York  
*American Art Today: Contemporary Landscape*, Florida International University, Miami, Florida (exh. cat.)  
*Direct Response: Contemporary Landscape Painting*, Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, New York  
*Art of the 80's from The Collection of Chemical Bank*, The Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey (exh. cat.)
- 1988-89        *The World is Round: Contemporary Panoramas*, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York (exh. cat.)

## Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 1988            *Selections From The Ellen and Jerome Westheimer Collection*, curated by Sue Scott, Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City (exh. cat.)  
*Realism Today, American Drawings from the Rita Rich Collection*, traveling exhibition organized by the National Academy of Design (exh. cat.)  
*20th Century American Realism from the Blum Collection*, Aetna Institute Gallery, Hartford, Connecticut (exh. cat.)
- 1987            *Urban Visions: The Contemporary Artist and New York*. Adelphi University, Garden City, New York  
*Contemporary American Landscapes: Reflections of Social Change*, Summit Art Center, Summit, New Jersey (exh. cat.)  
*Animal Life*, One Penn Plaza, New York, New York  
*Drawing and Drawings*, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York  
*Landscape, Seascape, Cityscape*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans and New York Academy of Art, New York, New York  
*20th Century Drawings from the Whitney Museum of American Art*, Fairfield County, Stamford, Connecticut (exh. cat.)
- 1986            *American Realism: Twentieth-Century Drawings and Watercolors from The Glenn C. Janss Collection*, organized by San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California (exh. cat.)  
*Mainly on the Plain*, 56 Bleeker Street Gallery, New York, New York
- 1985            *Visiting Artists*, Kemper Gallery, Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, Missouri  
*Views: Interior and Exterior*, Koplin Gallery, Los Angeles, California  
*The Realist Landscape*, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
*New American Painters: Figuration*, Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington, D.C.  
*American Realism: The Precise Image*, traveling exhibition organized by Isetan Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan (exh. cat.)  
*Survival of the Fittest II*, Ingber Gallery, New York, New York  
*Drawing Acquisitions 81-85*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York (exh.cat.)  
*The Primacy of Just Seeing*, Thorpe Intermedia Gallery, Sparkill, New York, New York
- 1984            *Landscape*, Matthews Hamilton Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*New Narrative Painting: Selections from the Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, Tamayo Museum, Mexico City, Mexico  
*Artists' Choice Museum: The First Eight Years*, Artists' Choice Museum, New York, New York  
*Mood and Landscape*, Sherrie French Gallery, New York, New York  
*New Realism Behind the Scenes*, College of the Mainland Art Gallery, Texas City, Texas (exh. cat.)  
*New Vistas: Contemporary American Landscape*, The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York (exh. cat.)
- 1983-84        *Painting New York*, Museum of the City of New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- 1983            *Contemporary Landscape Painting*, traveling exhibition organized by Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut (exh. cat.)

## Group Exhibitions (continued)

- Perspectives on Contemporary American Realism, Works on Paper*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (exh. cat.)
- A Heritage Renewed, Representational Drawing Today*, University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, California (exh. cat.)
- Painted Light*, traveling exhibition organized by Queens Museum, New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- Carnegie International*, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (exh. cat.)
- 1982 *An Appreciation of Realism*, Munson-Williams Proctor Institute, Utica, New York
- Architectural Images*, Summit Art Center, Summit, New Jersey (exh. cat.)
- 1981 *Contemporary American Realism*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (exh. cat.)
- Biennial Exhibition 1981*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- Amerikanische Malerei 1930-1980*, Haus der Kunst, Munich, Germany
- The American Landscape, Recent Developments*, (Organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art), Stamford, Connecticut (exh. cat.)
- The Panoramic Image*, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom (exh. cat.)
- Contemporary American Landscape*, Hirschl & Adler Galleries, New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- The Americans: The Landscape*, Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, Texas. (exh. cat.)
- 20 Artists: Yale School of Art 1950-1970*, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut (exh. cat.)
- American Drawings in Black and White; 1970-80*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York
- Real, Really Real, Super Real: Directions in Contemporary Realism*, traveling exhibition organized by San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, Texas (exh. cat.)
- Animals in American Art 1880's-1980's*, Nassau County Museum of Fine Art, Roslyn, New York (exh. cat.)
- 1981 *American Realism and the Industrial Age*, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio (exh. cat.)
- 1980 *The Figurative Image*, Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, Connecticut.
- 1979 *America in the 70's: Depicted by Artists from the Richard Brown Baker Collection*, Meadow Brook Art Gallery, Rochester, Michigan
- Artists Choice Museum Show: Figurative/Realist Art*, 6 Galleries, New York, New York
- The New Concern with Nature*, Staten Island Museum New York, New York
- 1978 *Landscape/Cityscape*, State University of New York, Potsdam, New York
- Things Seen*, Sheldon Memorial Art Museum, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska (exh. cat.)
- 1977 *Figurative Art in New York*, Artists' Choice Museum, New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- Outside The City Limits: Landscapes by New York City Artists*, Thorpe Intermedia Gallery, Sparkill, New York (exh. cat.)
- 1976 *Eighteen Artists*, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California
- America 1976*, U.S. Department of Interior, Bicentennial Exhibition, Washington, D.C (exh. cat.)
- A Selection of American Art: The Skowhegan School 1946-76*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts (exh. cat.)

## Group Exhibitions (continued)

- 76 *Maine Artists*, Maine State Museum, Augusta, Maine
- 1974 *New Images: Figuration in American Painting*, The Queens Museum, New York, New York (exh. cat.)
- 1973 *A Sense of Place, The Artist and the American Land*, Mid-America Arts Alliance (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) (exh. cat.)
- 1972 *Painterly Realism*, Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois (exh. cat.)  
*Painters of Land and Sky*, Picker Gallery, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York
- 1970 *Painterly Realism*, American Federation of the Arts, traveling show through 1972  
*Two-Person Show* (with Janet Fish), Long Island University, Brooklyn Center, New York, New York  
*The Representational Spirit*, University Art Gallery, State University of New York at Albany, New York, curated by Ellen Romano Russotto. (exh. cat.)
- 1968 *American Landscape*, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania  
*Young New Yorkers*, Stevens Institute, New Jersey

## Museum Collections

Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA  
Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME  
Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA  
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, OH  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME  
Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
The Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA  
The Farnsworth Museum of Art, Rockland, ME  
The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC  
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, NH  
Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, IN  
Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, KS  
Kemper Museum, Kansas City, MO  
The Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, NM  
Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany  
Maier Museum of Art, Lynchburg, VA  
The Menil Collection, Houston, TX  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY



Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX  
Museum of Contemporary Art [MoCA], Jacksonville, FL  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, KS  
The Newark Museum, Newark, NJ  
Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, OK  
Palmer Museum of Art, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA  
The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
Philbrook Art Center, Tulsa, OK  
Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME  
Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC  
University of California, University Art Museum, Santa Barbara, CA  
Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, NC  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT

### **Corporate Collections**

Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., New York, NY  
Chemical Bank, New York, NY  
Equitable Life Insurance, New York, NY  
Exxon Corporation, New York, NY  
Hess Corporation, New York, NY  
Simpson, Thatcher, and Bartlett, New York, NY  
United Missouri Bancshares, New York, NY