Nassos Daphnis 1914 - 2010 Krokeai

Summary -

Nassos Daphnis was a Greek-born American painter and sculptor recognized for his mastery of geometric abstraction and his evolution into what became known as hard-edge painting. In the late 1950s, Daphnis developed his color-plane theory to liberate color from the restriction of form. In doing so, he used multiple planes of solid color to create the illusion of depth, space, and movement amid smooth, uninterrupted surface textures. The interplay of Daphnis' carefully chosen palette and dynamic shapes results in a vibrating, tension-ridden energy that allows color to be the primary element of the work, unconstrained by line or form. Critical reception of his exhibitions, including a breakthrough solo show with Leo Castelli in 1959, praised Daphnis as being both of the moment and ahead of the next; he remained outside recognized schools and moved fluidly among emerging styles.

Daphnis' work was represented by long-time friend and iconic dealer Leo Castelli for over thirty years. Major institutional exhibitions include six editions of *the Whitney Annual* (1959–67), 64th Annual American Exhibition at the Art Institute of Chicago (1961) and *Geometric Abstraction in America* at the Whitney Museum of American Art (1962). In 1977 he received the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship and was later the recipient of the Francis J. Greenburger Foundation Award (1986) and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award (1986). His work is included in the Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Baltimore Museum, Baltimore, MD; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; and Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece.

"The important thing for me was to place the color in its proper plane, which I feel is the only way that a color can exist." - Oral history interview with Nassos Daphnis, 1964 Sept. 6, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.



Education -

1952

Institute Statale Dell'Arte, Florence, Italy

1949

Art Students League, New York

Solo Exhibitions -

Transmitting Waves, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York

2015

Pixel Fields, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York (cat.)

2011

Nassos Daphnis: An Exhibition in Memory of His Legacy, Daphnis Studio, New York

2004

Nassos Daphnis, Astrolavos Artlife, Athens

2003

Nassos Daphnis: PX-1969 Paintings, Eaton Fine Art, West Palm Beach, FL

1996

Nassos Daphnis, Kappatos Gallery, Argostoli, Kefalonia, Greece

1995

Nassos Daphnis: Energies in Outer Space, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Nassos Daphnis: Matter in Outer Space, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York

1993

Nassos Daphnis Color and Form: A Retrospective, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Boca Raton, FL; The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH

1992

Nassos Daphnis, Berta Walker Gallery, Provincetown, MA

1991

Nassos Daphnis, Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Centre, Athens (cat.) Biomorphic Watercolors of 1947-48, The Sid Deutsch Gallery, New York City (cat.)

Nassos Daphnis: Four Decades, 1950-1980s, Nico Verato Gallery, Milan

1990

Thirty-Years With Leo Castelli, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York (cat.)

Recent Works, Raynolds Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

1988

Evolving Spheres, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1986

The Fertility Rites of the Tree Peonies, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1985

The Continuous Painting, 1975, And Other Works, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
Four Decades of Work on Paper, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York
Nassos Daphnis: Paintings and Sculpture 1952-87, Eaton/Schoen Gallery, San
Francisco, CA

1983

Transmitting Waves, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Paintings from the 50's, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York

Recent Paintings, Omega Gallery, Athens

Biomorphic Painting 1947-48, Kouros Gallery, New York (cat.)

1981

Nassos Daphnis, Eaton/Schoen Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1980

Paintings From the 50's, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York (cat.)

Nassos Daphnis, Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT

Recent Serigraphs by Nassos Daphnis, Frank Fedele Fine Arts, New York

Nassos Daphnis, Eaton/Schoen Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Nassos Daphnis, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA

1976

Nassos Daphnis, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York (cat.)
Nassos Daphnis, Kingpitcher Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

1975

The Continuous Painting, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
Nassos Daphnis, Printers Gallery, Ithaca, NY

1974

Nassos Daphnis, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York

1973

Nassos Daphnis Retrospective 1958 – 1972, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
Nassos Daphnis, Monoprints, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1971

Hexagon Module, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1970

Nassos Daphnis, Brockton Art Center, Brockton, MA

1969

Nassos Daphnis Work Since 1951, Albright-Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY (cat.); Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY

1968

Inlays, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1967

Nassos Daphnis, Franklin Siden Gallery, Detroit, MI

1965
Epoxy Paintings, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Nassos Daphnis, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1963

Plexiglas Structures, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1962

Nassos Daphnis, Galerie Iris Clert, Paris

1961

Nassos Daphnis, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York
Nassos Daphnis, Toninelli Arte Moderna, Milan (cat.)

1960

Nassos Daphnis, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1959

Nassos Daphnis, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1950

Nassos Daphnis, Galerie Colette Allendy, Paris

1949

Nassos Daphnis, Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York (cat.)
Nassos Daphnis, Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC

1947

Nassos Daphnis, Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York (cat.)

Nassos Daphnis, Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York (cat.)

Group Exhibitions -

2017

1959-1963 American Pioneers of Castelli Gallery: A Tribute to Nassos Daphnis, The Armory Show, New York

1959-1963 American Pioneers of Castelli Gallery: A Tribute to Nassos Daphnis, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York

2016

Ballet Mécanique, Richard Taittinger Gallery, New York

2014

The Hard Line, Seymour Boardman, Illya Bolotowsky, Nassos Daphnis, Kendall Shaw, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

Couples/Duos, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, MA

2013

Plans for a Summer, Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Center, Athens

2012

Beauty, Life, and Spirit: A Celebration of Greek Culture, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY

2011

50's & 60's Prices?, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

2009

Paper Proposes Pleasure & Sculptors, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

Masters of Abstraction, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

2007

Ithaca Regained, Kouros Gallery, New York

Art in Embassies, Embassy of the United States, Nassau, Bahamas

Art Fair, Anita Shapolsky Gallery at RED DOT, New York

2006

Paper Works by Abstract Masters, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

Summer Sculpture: A Changing Exhibition, Eaton Fine Art, West Palm Beach, FL

Nassos DAPHNIS & Ernest BRIGGS: OPPOSING FORCES, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

2004

New York School Artists: Works of the 50's and 60's, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

Group Exhibition, Astrolavos Gallery, Athens

2003

Re-Examining Abstract Art: Part 2, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York

2002

Perspectives II: Five Decades of Seminal Work, Kouros Gallery, New York

1999

United Nations, New York

Modern Odysseys-Greek American Artists of the 20th Century, Queens Museum, New York (cat.)

Salonica Greece Museum of Art, State Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece

40 Years of Exploration and Innovation Part 2 Daphnis, Kelly, Judd, Stella, Waldman, Therrien, Serra, Flavin, Morris, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1996

Group Drawing Exhibition Works on Paper: Chryssa, Johns, Ruscha, Sonnier, Lichtenstein, Nauman, Stella, Rauschenberg, Morris, Serra, Weiner, Daphnis, Darboven, Therrien, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1992

The Midtown Flower Show, Midtown Payson Galleries, New York Summer Group Show 1992, Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art, Athens

1991

, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York

1990

American Abstract Artists 1989, 55 Mercer, New York

1989

From Mondrian to Minimalism: American Constructivism, 1945-1965, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York

1988

American Exploration in Geometry: Color and Surface in 1950's and 1960's, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York

Opposites, Long Point Gallery, Provincetown, MA

A Living Tradition (Selections from the American Abstract Artists), United States Information Agency, Washington, DC

Art Symposium, Agios Nicolaos, Crete, Greece

XXXth Anniversary, the first fifteen years, part 1: Artschwager, Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Johns, Kelly, Lichtenstein, Oldenburg, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Ruscha, Scarpitta, Stella, Twombly, Warhol, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Greenburger Foundation Awards, Jack Gallery, New York

An Exhibition of Recent Works by the Recipients of the Francis J. Greenburger Awards, 1987, Jack Gallery, New York

Leo Castelli and His Artists: 30 Years Promoting Contemporary Art, Centro Cultureal Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City

Color: Pure & Simple, Stamford Museum & Nature Center, Stamford, CT

1986

The Severe and the Romantic: Geometric Humanism in American Painting, 1950s-1980s, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York

The 1950's American Artists in Paris, Denise Cade Gallery, New York

Elders of the Tribe, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, New York

Paintings and Sculpture by Candidates for Art Awards, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York

American Abstract Artists 50th Anniversary Celebration, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY

1985

Group Exhibition, Dracos Art Center, Athens

1984

American Post-War Purism, Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York 10th Anniversary Exhibition, Andre Zarre Gallery, New York

Castelli and His Artists: Twenty-Five Years: Artschwager, Barry, Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Darboven, Dibbets, Flavin, Grisi, Huebler, Johns, Johnson, Judd, Kelly, Kosuth, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Oldenburg, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Ruscha, Salle, Scarpitta, Schnabel, Serra, Sonnier, Stella, Twombly, Waldman, Warhol, Weiner, Westerlund Roosen, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla, CA; Aspen Center for the Visual Arts, Aspen, CO; Leo Castelli Gallery, New York; Portland Center for the Visual Arts, Portland, OR; Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, TX

Modern American Paintings, Pinaeotheque Nationale Musee Alexandre Soutzos, Athens

Aspen Center for the Visual Arts, Portland, Oregon Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, Texas

1981

Selections, Eaton/Schoen Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1980

The Geometric Tradition in American Paintings: 1920 – 1980, Rose Esman Gallery, New York; Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York

Drawings to Benefit the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

1979

Summer Group Exhibition Andre, Daphnis, Flavin, Judd, Kelly, Lichtenstein, Morris, Owen, Rauschenberg, Ruscha, Serra, Stella, Twombly, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York The Sixties Revisited, Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT

1978

Greek Suite, Consulate General of Greece, New York

Greek Art America, Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, MA

1977

Perspective '77, Albright College, Reading, PA

Provincetown Painters, 1890's – 1970's, Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; Provincetown Art Association, Provincetown, MA

Cape Cod as an Art Colony, Heritage Plantation Museum, Sandwich, MA NOEMATA, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY

For Collectors 1977, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

1976

Summer Group Exhibition Artschwager, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Dibbets, Flavin, Judd, Kelly, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Noland Oldenburg, Owen, Rauschenberg, Serra, Stella, Weiner, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Contemporary American Artists of Greek Ancestry, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL

Perspective '76, Albright College, Reading, PA American Abstract Artists, Westbeth Gallery, New York

New York Studio School Drawing Benefit, New York 1974

Group Drawing Exhibition Artschwager, Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Darboven, Davis, Flavin, Huebler, Johns, Judd, Kelly, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Oldenburg, Owen, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Ruscha, Serra, Stella, Twombly, Leo Castelli Gallery, New Yor

Group Graphics Exhibition: Artschwager, Baltz, Bontecou, Daphnis, Huebler, Johns, Judd, Kelly, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Oldenburg, Petersen, Pistoletto, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Ruscha, Serra, Sonnier, Stella, Twombly, Warhol, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Group Sculpture Show: In Three Dimensions Artschwager, Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Flavin, Judd, Kelly, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Oldenburg, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Scarpitta Serra, Sonnier, Stella, Waldman, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Alcoa Collection of Contemporary Art, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London

1972

Group Drawing Exhibition: Barry, Bontecou, Daphnis, Flavin, Huebler, Johns, Judd, Kosuth, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Owen, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Ruscha, Serra, Sonnier, Stella, Twombly, Warhol, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Monoprints, Tirca Karlis Gallery, Provincetown, MA

Art Environment. Arlen Realty for Building Construction at 1500 Broadway, New York

1970

Benefit Exhibition for Referendum '70: Daphnis, Flavin, Johns, Judd, Lichtenstein, Morris, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Stella, Twombly, Warhol, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Group Graphics Exhibition: Artschwager, Bontecou, Daphnis, Johns, Judd, Lichtenstein, Morris, Nauman, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Schlossberg, Stella, Twombly, Warhol, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Pittsburgh International, Pittsburgh International Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute (now Carnegie Museum of Art)

Westbeth Gallery, New York

1969

31st Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Highlights of the 1968-1969 Season, Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT

Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture, Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL

Painting and Sculpture Today, The Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN

Color in Control, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, FL

Second Flint Invitational, The Flint Institute of Art, Flint, MI

1968

Selections from the Collection of Hanford Yang, Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT

1967

Tenth Anniversary Exhibition: Artschwager, Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Higgins, Johns, Judd, Lichtenstein, Morris, Poons, Rauschenberg, Rosenquist, Scarpitta, Stella, Twombly, Warhol, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Whitney Annual, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1965

Whitney Annual, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
White on White, DeCordova Museum, Lincoln, MA

1964

Whitney Annual, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

World Show, Washington Square Galleries, New York

Motion and Movement, CAC – Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH

Group Drawing Exhibition: Bontecou, Daphnis, Johns, Lichtenstein, Moskowitz, Rauschenberg, Stella, Tworkov, van de Wiele, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

28th Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (now National Gallery of Art)

Formalists, Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, DC

1st Salon International des Galeries Pilotes, Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland

Park Synagogue Art Festival, Cleveland, OH South County State Bank, St. Louis, MO

1962

Geometric Abstraction in America, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

Group Exhibition: Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Higgins, Rauschenberg, Scarpitta, Stella, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Whitney Annual, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Art Since 1950, Seattle World's Fair, Seattle, WA; Brandeis University, Waltham, MA Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, DC

1961

Sixty-Fourth American Exhibition Paintings Sculpture, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

An Exhibition in Progress: Bontecou, Chamberlain, Daphnis, Higgins, Johns, Langlais, Moskowitz, Rauschenberg, Scarpitta, Stella, Twombly, Tworkov, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Pittsburgh International, Pittsburgh International Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute (now Carnegie Museum of Art)

Whitney Annual, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

American Abstract Expressionists and Imagists, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

American Abstract Artists Exhibition, Lever House, New York

Purist Painting, Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN; Carleton College, Northfield, MN; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, NC; White Art Museum, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Summary 1959-1960: Bluhm, Bontecou, Daphnis, Higgins, Johns, Kohn, Langlais, Rauschenberg, Sander, Scarpitta, Stella, Twombly, Tworkov, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

Purist Painting, The Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY; Columbus Gallery of Fine Art, Columbus, OH; Layton School of Art, Milwaukee, WI

International Art of A New Era, Osaka Museum of Fine Art, Osaka, Japan

Contemporary Oil Paintings of American Artists, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA; Twentieth Century Gallery, Williamsburg, VA; Roanoke Fine Arts Center, Roanoke, VA; Albemarle Art Association, Charlottesville, VA; Randolph-Macon Women's College, Lynchburg, VA; Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA

1959

Opening Exhibition of the New Gallery: Bluhm, Brach, Daphnis, Johns, Kohn, Rauschenberg, Sander, Scarpitta, Stella, Twombly, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

26th Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (now National Gallery of Art)

Whitney Annual, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

1958

Pittsburgh International, Pittsburgh International Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute (now Carnegie Museum of Art)

The Osaka Exhibition (American Section) 1958-59, Osaka, Japan

1955

Pittsburgh International, Pittsburgh International Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute (now Carnegie Museum of Art)

1952

Pittsburgh International, Pittsburgh International Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute (now Carnegie Museum of Art)

1951

Salon de Mai, Paris

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D'une saison à l'autre, Galerie Colette Allendy, Paris (cat.)

1949

Painting in the United States, 1949, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

1948

The Annual Pre-Season Group Exhibition, Contemporary Arts Gallery, New York

1947

Painting in the United States, 1947, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

Commissions -

1971

Wall Painting at West Side Highway and 47th Street, City Walls, Incorporated, New York

Wall Painting at 26th Street and Madison Avenue, City Walls, Incorporated, New York

Grants & Awards -

1999

Arts Achievement Award, Queens Museum Art, New York

1992

Richard A. Florsheim Art Fund Award, USA

1986

The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Award, USA

The Francis J. Greenburger Foundation Award, USA

Guggenheim Fellowship, New York

1972

New England 350th Celebration Exhibition, USA

1971

National Endowment of the Arts Grant Award, USA Boca Raton Museum Award, Boca Raton, FL

1966

National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities Award, USA Pittsburgh Award

1962

Ford Foundation Award, USA

Purchase Award: Painting donated to Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Collections -

Akron Art Museum, Akron, OH

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY Baltimore Museum, Baltimore, MD Boca Raton Museum of Art

Brooklyn Museum, New York

Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA

Empire State Plaza Art Collection Guggenheim Museum, New York

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC Jewish Museum of Florida

Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Museum of Modern Art, New York

Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, MA Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA

RISD Museum of Art, Providence, RI Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA

University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT

Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Bibliography -

Nassos Daphnis Work Since 1951. Buffalo, NY: Albright-Knox Gallery, 1969; Syracuse: NY: Everson Museum of Art, 1969.

ARGAN, Giulio carlo. Nassos Daphnis. Milan: Galleria Toninelli Arte Moderna, 1961.

ASHTON, Dore, Sania Papa. Nassos Daphnis. Athens: Contemporary Art Center, 1991.

BOURGEOIS, Stephan. Nassos Daphnis. New York: Contemporary Arts, 1938.

CHEVALIER, Denys. Nassos Daphnis. Paris: Galerie Colette Allendy, 1950.

FRANCIS, Emily A. Nassos Daphnis. New York: Contemporary Arts, 1949.

GRUEN, John. *Nassos Daphnis Biomorphic Paintings, 1947–1948*. New York: Kouros Gallery, 1985.

KINGSLEY, April. Works of the 1950's. New York: Leo Castelli Gallery, 1980.

MURDOCK, Robert M. Thirty Years with Leo Castelli

ORAV, Erik. *Biomorphic Watercolors of the 1947-48*. New York: Sid Deutsch Gallery, 1991.

TANNENBAUM, Judith. Nassos Daphnis. New York: Andre Zarre Gallery, 1976.

WASHBURN, Gordon. Nassos Daphnis. New York: Contemporary Arts, 1947.