

# GAZELLI ART HOUSE

## **Perle Fine**

(American, 1905-1988)

Throughout her fifty-year career, Perle Fine (1905-1988) was uncompromising of her ideals and vehemently trusted her artistic instincts; with this aesthetic confidence the abstract artist was able to step beyond the realms of the mainstream and establish herself among male counterparts.

Perle Fine's first exhibitions in the 1940s took place during a period of transition, with the New York art world at the epicenter of creative innovation. Emerging from the pupillage of Hans Hofmann, Fine knew success early, showing at Betty Parsons and Tanager Galleries in the 1940's and 50's. In 1942, her work had already been included in pivotal group exhibitions at galleries such as Art of This Century and Stable Gallery. Fine also socialised with key members of the New York School and European painters including; Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Ad Reinhardt to Piet Mondrian. She was a member of 'The Club', the art press praised her and she was interviewed on the radio by Irving Sandler. Fine was included in a total of nine Whitney Annual and Bi-annual exhibitions between 1946 and 1972.

The artist saw herself first and foremost as a painter, but also experimented with etching, collage and drawing. Fine's style was lauded for its visual rhythms despite the geometric nature of its form. Perle Fine's 'Cool Series' (1961-63) was an evolution of her earlier Abstract Expressionist style. The artist explained that this body of work was a "growth" rather than a "departure" from gestural abstraction into a more reductive, geometric approach to painting. Echoing her own move from bustling Manhattan to a quiet and contemplative East Hampton in the mid 50s; Fine's 'Cool Series' represents what the critic Clement Greenberg described as a "new openness and clarity". Fine's soulful and analytical Colour Field series entitled "cool" engages the viewer and provokes a direct emotional and intellectual response teetering on the spiritual. Fine's investigation of colour ranges from the brooding hues seen in Rothko's work to the crisp and bright meeting of dual colors which echo the interior/exterior world she experienced in East Hampton.

Perle Fine's work is in collections including; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. USA; Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA amongst others.

Perle Fine integrated the hyper-masculine New York art scene and gained success on her own terms throughout her career.

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## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2020-21 *The Cool Series*, Gazelli Art House, London, UK
- 2020 *The Accordment Series*, Berry Campbell Gallery, New York, USA
- 2017 *Perle Fine: Prescience Series*, Berry Campbell Gallery, New York, USA  
*Perle Fine: Trove*, West Loop Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2015 *Perle Fine (1905 - 1988)*, Berry Campbell Gallery, New York, USA
- 2011 *Perle Fine: The Cool Series*, Spanierman Gallery, New York, USA
- 2009 *Retrospective*, Hofstra University, New York, USA
- 2008 *Perle Fine*, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2005 *Perle Fine Collages, 1957-1966*, Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center, East Hampton, New York, USA
- 1997 *Perle Fine: Works on Paper*, Hirschl & Adler Galleries, New York, USA
- 1984 Ingber Gallery, New York, USA
- 1982 Ingber Gallery, New York, USA
- 1978 *Major Works, 1954-1978: A Selection of Drawings, Paintings, and Collages*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, USA
- 1977 Andre Zarre Gallery, New York, USA
- 1976 Andre Zarre Gallery, New York, USA
- 1974 Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead, New York, USA
- 1973 Andre Zarre Gallery, New York, USA
- 1972 Joan Washburn Gallery, New York, USA
- 1967 Graham Gallery, New York, USA
- 1964 Graham Gallery, New York, USA
- 1963 Graham Gallery, New York, USA
- 1961 Graham Gallery, New York, USA  
Robert Keene Gallery, Southampton, New York, USA  
Franklin Gallery, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA
- 1960 Tanager Gallery, New York, USA
- 1958 Tanager Gallery, New York, USA
- 1957 Tanager Gallery, New York, USA
- 1955 Tanager Gallery, New York, USA
- 1952-53 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, USA
- 1951 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, USA
- 1949 Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, USA
- 1947 M.H. De Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco, USA  
Nierendorf Gallery, New York, USA
- 1946 Nierendorf Gallery, New York, USA
- 1945 Marian Willard Gallery, New York, USA

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## Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *9th St. Club*, Gazelli Art House, London, UK  
*20/20: Twenty Women Artists of the Twentieth Century*, David Owsley Museum of Art, Muncie, Indiana, USA  
*Abstract Expressionism: Visions of the Sublime*, Heather James Fine Art, Santa Barbara, California, USA  
*What We See, How We See*, The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York  
*Subtext*, MM Fine Art, Southampton, New York, USA  
*Abstract Expressionist Women*, Heather James Fine Art, Palm Desert, California  
*Cross Atlantic*, Gazelli Art House, London, UK  
*Women of Abstract Expressionism: Inventory Highlights*, Berry Campbell Gallery, New York, USA
- 2019-20 *Sparkling Amazons: Abstract Expressionist Women of the 9th St. Show*, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, New York, USA  
*Heroines of Abstract Expressionism*, Fenimore Art Museum, Cooperstown, New York, USA
- 2019 *Postwar Women*, Art Students League, New York, USA  
*Montauk Highway III: Postwar Abstraction in the Hamptons*, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, New York, USA  
*Painters of the East End*, Kasmin Gallery, Chelsea, New York, USA
- 2018-19 *A Gesture of Conviction | Women of Abstract Expressionism*, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 2018 *Blurring Boundaries: The Women of AAA 1936 - Present*, Ewing Gallery, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA  
*Montauk Highway II: Postwar Abstraction in the Hamptons*, Eric Firestone Gallery, New York, USA  
*57th Street: America's Artistic Legacy, Part I*, Cavalier Galleries, New York, USA  
*Summer Selections 2018*, Berry Campbell, New York City, New York, USA
- 2017 *Perle Fine/Marguerite Louppe*, New York/Paris, Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, USA  
*Now's the Time*, Sheldon Museum of Art, Lincoln, Nebraska, USA  
*Summer Selections 2017*, Berry Campbell, New York City, New York, USA  
*Women of Abstract Expressionism*, Palm Spring Art Museum, Palm Springs, California, USA  
*Inventing Downtown: Artist-Run Galleries in New York City, 1952-1965*, Grey Art Gallery, NYU, Greenwich Village, New York, USA  
*Women of Abstract Expressionism*, Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA
- 2016 *Women of Abstract Expressionism*, Denver Art Museum, Colorado, USA  
*Inscape- The Inner Nature of Things*, The Parish Art Museum, Southampton, New York, USA  
*Art Southampton*, Berry Campbell Gallery, Southampton, New York, USA  
*Summer Selections*, Berry Campbell Gallery, Southampton, New York, USA
- 2015 *Her Work*, West Loop Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2013 *Against Nature: Hard Edge Abstraction*, Taylor | Graham, Upper East Side, New York, USA  
*Summer Selections*, Spanierman Gallery, New York City, New York, USA  
*Abstract Strength: Mary Abbott, Perle Fine, Judith Godwin, Gertrude Greene, & Charlotte Park*, Spanierman Modern, Miami Beach, Florida, USA
- 2012 *Modern and Contemporary Paintings*, Spanierman Modern, Miami Beach, Florida, USA

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- Artists of the East End: Past & Present*, Spanierman Modern, Miami Beach, Florida, USA  
*Gallery Selections*, Spanierman Gallery, 57th Street, New York, USA
- 2011 *East End Artists Part II*, Spanierman Gallery, 57th Street, New York, USA  
*No Rules - East 9th Street Revisited, 1951-2011*, The Dorian Grey Gallery, New York, USA  
*Black And-*, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York, USA
- 2009 *Days Lumberyard Studios 1915 - 1972*, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis Port, Massachusetts, USA
- 2007 *Be-Bomb: The Transatlantic War of Images and all that Jazz, 1946-1956*, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Spain  
*Suitcase Paintings: Small Scale Abstract Expressionism*, Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, traveling exhibition
- 2005 *Reuniting an Era—Abstract Expressionists of the 1950s*, Rockford Art Museum, Illinois, USA  
*Pressing Ideas: Fifty Years of Women's Lithographs from Tamarind*, National Museum of Women in the Art, Washington DC, USA
- 2004 *Reuniting an Era Abstract Expressionists of the 1950s*, Rockford Art Museum, Rockford, Illinois, USA
- 2001 *Abstract Expressionism: Second to None*, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 1994 *Provincetown: A 50's Connection*, Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Provincetown, Massachusetts, USA  
*Women and Abstract Expressionism: Painting and Sculpture, 1945-1959*, Baruch College Gallery, City University of New York, New York, USA  
*Reclaiming Artists of the New York School. Toward a More Inclusive View of the 1950s*, Baruch College City University, New York, USA
- 1990 *East Hampton Avant-Garde: A Salute to the Signa Gallery*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, USA
- 1986 *A Colorful Retrospective: Works on Paper*, Ingber Gallery, New York, USA
- 1984 *The Return of Abstraction*, Ingber Gallery, New York, USA  
*Some Major Artists of the Hamptons, Then and Now: 1960s-1980s*, Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York, USA
- 1982 *Modern Masters: Woman of the First Generation*, Mabel Smith Douglas Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA
- 1981 *American Artists: The Early Years*, Summit Art Center, New Jersey, USA  
*Drawings*, Phoenix Gallery, Gallery II, Washington, D.C., USA
- 1980 *17 Abstract Artists of East Hampton: The Pollock Years 1946-56*, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York, USA
- 1979 *15 Abstract Expressionists*, Cultural Center, Paris, France  
*Women Artists of Eastern Long Island*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, USA  
*The Springs Artists Exhibition*, Ashawagh Hall, East Hampton, New York, USA
- 1978 *Artists of Suffolk County*, Heckscher Museum, Huntington, New York, USA
- 1977 *Perspective*, Freedman Art Gallery, Albright College, Reading, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1974 *Recent Abstract Paintings*, Pratt Institute, New York, USA  
*Recipients of Honors Exhibition*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, USA

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- 1973 *8 Contemporary American Artists*, State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, New York, USA
- 1969 *Silvermine Annual Exhibition*, New Canaan, Connecticut, USA
- 1967 *Selection 1967: Recent Acquisitions in Modern Art*, University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA
- 1965 *Women Artists in America, 1707–1964*, Newark Museum, New Jersey, USA  
Long Island University, Southampton, New York, USA  
*Silvermine Annual Exhibition*, New Canaan, Connecticut, USA
- 1963 *Hans Hofmann and his Students*, traveling exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 1962 *Lyricism in Abstract Art*, American Federation of Arts, New York City, New York, USA  
*Provincetown: A Painter's Place*, American Federation of Arts, Provincetown, Massachusetts, USA
- 1961 *International Exhibitions of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture*, Carnegie Institute, Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
*Geometric Abstraction in America*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA  
*The Art of Assemblage*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
*Silvermine Annual Exhibition*, New Canaan, Connecticut, USA
- 1960 Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexican Biennial, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1958 *Nature in Abstraction; The Relation of Abstract Painting and Sculpture to Nature in Twentieth-Century American Art*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA  
*Collage in America*, Zabriskie Gallery in cooperation with the American Federation of Arts, New York City, New York, USA  
*Pittsburgh International Exhibitions of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture*, Carnegie Institute, Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
Center Gallery, New York City, New York, USA
- 1955 *Eleven New Artists of the Region*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, USA  
*Ninth Annual Print Exhibition*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA  
*Contemporary Trends*, traveling exhibition, American Federation of Arts, USA  
*Annals*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, USA  
Tanager Gallery, New York, USA
- 1953 *Selections of Painting and Sculpture*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA  
*Nine Women Artists*, Bennington College Gallery, Vermont, USA  
*New York Annals*, Stable Gallery, New York City, New York, USA  
*Painting and Sculpture*, New School for Social Research, New York, USA  
*Selections of Painting and Sculpture*, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- 1952 *Annals and Biennials*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, USA  
*Lithographs*, One-Wall Gallery, Wittenborn, New York, USA
- 1951 *Annals and Biennials*, Whitney Museum of Art, New York City, USA  
*Contemporary Painting in the U.S.*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, USA  
*9th Street Show*, Stable Gallery, New York City, New York, USA
- 1950 *Salon des Réalités Nouvelles*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France  
*American Painting Today—1950*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA

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- 1949 *New England Painting and Sculpture*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
*Ten Women Who Paint*, Tryon Gallery, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA
- 1948 *Abstract and Surrealist American Art*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
*Biennial*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, USA
- 1947 The Museum of Non-Objective Painting (now, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum), New York City,  
New York, USA  
*Salon des Réalités Nouvelles*, Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France  
*Works on Paper*, Stanhope Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts, USA  
*Spring Annual*, Watkins Gallery, American University, Washington D.C, USA  
*Painting Toward Architecture*, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, USA
- 1945 *The Women*, Art of this Century Gallery, New York, USA  
*The Women: An Exhibition of Paintings by Contemporary Women*, Alumnae Hall Gallery, Western College,  
Oxford, Ohio, USA
- 1944 *Spring Salon*, Art of this Century, New York, USA  
The Museum of Non-Objective Painting (now, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum), New York City,  
New York, USA  
Puma Gallery, New York, USA  
Wittenborn Gallery, New York, USA
- 1943 *The Art of This Century*, The Museum of Non-Objective Painting (now, Solomon R. Guggenheim  
Museum), New York, USA  
*Spring Salon*, Art of this Century, New York, USA
- 1938 Municipal Art Galleries, New York, USA

### Selected Collections

Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts, USA  
Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA  
Ball State Museum of Art, Muncie, Indiana, USA  
Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA  
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, USA  
Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art, Nashville, Tennessee, USA  
Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C. USA  
Guild Hall, East Hampton, New York, USA  
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA  
Hofstra University Museum, Hempstead, New York, USA  
Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA  
Indiana University Art Museum, Bloomington, Indiana, USA  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, New York, USA  
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, New York, USA  
National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. USA

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New York University Art Collection, New York City, New York, USA  
Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York, USA  
Principia College, Saint Louis, Missouri, USA  
Provincetown Art Association Museum, Provincetown, Massachusetts, USA  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA  
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C. USA  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, New York, USA  
University of California, Berkeley, California, USA  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA  
Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina, USA  
Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts, USA

## **Education**

Grand Central School of Art, New York City, NY  
Art Students League, New York City, NY