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

2022	Rackstraw Downes: Drawings, Betty Cuningham Gallery, New York, NY, January 27 – March 12
2020	Rackstraw Downes: A Wider View, List Gallery at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, March 5 – April 5
2018	Rackstraw Downes, Betty Cuningham Gallery, New York, NY, Sept 5-Oct 14
2014	Rackstraw Downes, Betty Cuningham Gallery, New York, NY, April 3- May 3
2012	Rackstraw Downes, Betty Cuningham 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 Cuningham Gallery, New York, NY
2008	Building the Collection: Rackstraw Downes, Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
	Rackstraw Downes, Betty Cuningham Gallery, New York, New York

Solo Exhibitions (continued)

	,
2007	Rackstraw Downes, Texas Gallery, Houston, Texas
2005	Rackstraw Downes: Paintings and Studies, Dunn and Brown Contemporary, Dallas, Texas
2004	Rackstraw Downes: New Paintings, Betty Cuningham 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

2021	The Beatitudes of Malibu, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, May 15 – July 2, 2021
2020	Can You Hear My Silent Scream?, Betty Cuningham Gallery, New York, NY, September 11 – October 20, 2020
2019-20	The Slab City Scene, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME, April 13, 2019 – February 9, 2020
	<i>The Seasons</i> , Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, NY, November 16, 2019 – March 1, 2020
2019	Summer!, Betty Cuningham Gallery, New York, NY, June 13- August 2
	Downtown Painting, Presented by Alex Katz, Peter Freeman, Inc. June 5- July 26
	America Will Be! Surveying the Contemporary Landscape, Dallas Museum of Art, April 6 – October 6
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 Robert 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,
	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 Cuningham 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
	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
	Tendences 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 th 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
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 for the Arts, Naples, Florida (exh. cat.) Marianne Friedland, Philharmonic Center
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 Henoch, 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.)
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 Contempoary Landscape Painting, traveling exhibition organized by Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut (exh. cat.)

> 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.)
	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

Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME

Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY

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

Harvard Art Museums, Fogg Museum, Cambridge, MA

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 of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO

The Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, NM

The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

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, Jacksonville, FL

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

National Academy of Design, 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

Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY

The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia Museum of Art, 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

AXA Insurance Company, 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