

Joe Novak

Joe Novak's focus throughout his career has been the exploration of color and light through abstraction. During the eighties and nineties, he painted large monochromatic color field canvases with tonal gradations and soft edges that infuse them with a meditative quality and a sense of movement. When illuminated they become glowing surfaces of color and light. The art critic Peter Frank has written of this work: "One step beyond Rothko's, Novak's paintings gently force the eye to breathe color."

During the nineties, while living and working in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Novak initiated a project called "Light Emanations", in which he created computerized programs of changing light levels and configurations on a selection of his large paintings, dramatically illustrating the effect of light changes on color perception.

Novak's work there drew the attention of Timothy Rub, currently director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and former director of the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth College. Rub became the moving force behind Novak's 2002 Hood Museum exhibition "Joe Novak: Paintings, 1993-1999". His introduction in the accompanying catalogue compared Novak's paintings to those of Rothko and Morris Louis, concluding "... this is not a matter of superficial resemblance but rather of spiritual kinship with those who believed in the language of abstraction and the power of painting to offer the viewer an experience that is, in essence, transcendental... One cannot fully appreciate his paintings without seeing them under the controlled conditions of graduated lighting that he has conceived as an integral aspect of their presentation. For it is here that Novak's artistry is fully revealed."

Novak's body of work is extensive and includes paintings on canvas, panel and paper as well as monotypes, drawings, assemblages, mixed media and prints. He has often worked in series, focusing on a particular medium for years. Among these are "Meditations" (color pencil drawings), "Voices" and "Voices 2" (color aquatint etchings), "Echoes" (painting assemblages with minerals) and "Colors" (350 miniature panel paintings). In recent years his paintings have become more gestural, often with musical allusions.

He has said: "Creating art is a journey into the unknown that is challenging, fulfilling and sometimes magical. For me it is about having a vision, doing the work, being open, taking risks, respecting the materials and listening to the eye."

Novak's work is in many public and private collections, including numerous museum collections.

Joe Novak Resumé

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2017

"Masters of Abstract Art", Rebecca Fine Art Gallery, Cathedral City, California, January 7- March 31

2015

"Joe Novak: Recent Work", Lawrence Fine Art, East Hampton, New York

2012

"Joe Novak - Paintings, 1981-2004, from the UNM Health Sciences Center Collection", Albuquerque, New Mexico

Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2010

Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2008

Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California

2006

Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Palm Desert, California

2005

Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California

2004

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Etherton Gallery, Tucson, Arizona

2003

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

2002

"Joe Novak: Paintings, 1993-1999, " Hood Museum of Art , Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2001

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

1998

McKesson Plaza, San Francisco, California

1997

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine

1996

The Bank of Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico

1995

Olaf Clasen Gallery, Cologne, Germany

Santa Fe Council for the Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico – " Light Emanations" installation

1989

Milari, Ltd., New York, New York

1988

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

1987

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

1985

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

Selected Group Exhibitions

2016

"Visually Speaking: Color & Light", Guest Curator, Rebecca Fine Art Gallery, Cathedral City, California

2013

Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Stephen Archdeacon Gallery, Palm Springs, California

Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, Illinois

2012

"Joe Novak/Huck Lewis-Bennett: A Collaboration", Stephen Archdeacon Gallery, Palm Springs, California

2011

Melissa Morgan Fine Art, Palm Desert, California

2010-2011

"Case Studies from the Bureau of Contemporary Art", New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2010

"Survey of ZBCA Artists", Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2009

"Trouble in Paradise: Examining Discord between Nature and Society", Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona

"Cutting Edge", Zane Bennett Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2007

"Recent Acquisitions", Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona

2006

"Mergers & Acquisitions", New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Palm Springs Art Museum Juried Exhibition (V. J. Jacobs Abstract Award), Palm Springs, California

"NonObjectivity", Pharmaka Gallery, Los Angeles, California

Farrell Fischhoff Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2005

Eagle Gallery, London, England

2004

"Contemporary Works on Paper from the Collection", New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Jill George Gallery, London, England

Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California

"Site Unseen 3", James Kelly Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

LewAllen Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2003

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

"New Mexico Printmakers", Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2002

EVO Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

2001

Anderson Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2000

Anderson Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Circle Elephant Art, Los Angeles, California

LewAllen Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

1999

LewAllen Contemporary, Santa Fe, New Mexico

1998

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine

Davidson & Daughters Contemporary Art, Portland, Maine

"Anonymous Bosch" Invitational, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Milari Ltd., New York, New York

Springs Annual Invitational, East Hampton, New York

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

1989

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

1988

Springs Annual Invitational, East Hampton, New York

1987

"New Faces/New Spaces" Invitational, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York

1987

Benton Gallery, Southampton, New York

Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York

1985

Springs Annual Invitational, East Hampton, New York

1984

30th Juried Exhibition, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York

Selected Bibliography

Angela Romeo, "Art Influencing Art", Palm Springs Art Patron Magazine, Winter, 2017

Rebecca Pikus, "What is Abstract Art?", Coachella Valley Weekly, February, 2017

Rachel Montoya, "Rebecca Fine Art Gallery - Celebrating the Art", Coachella

Valley Weekly, October, 2016

Jason Spencer, "Visually Speaking: Color & Light", Huffington Post, October 3, 2016

Angela Romeo, "Visually Speaking: Color & Light", Coachella Valley Weekly, March, 2016

Aaron Price, "Art Southampton 2015/ Our Favorite Works", July 10, 2015, Ultra Vie

<https://www.ultravie.co.uk/blog/2015/07/10/art-southampton-2015-our-favourite-works/>

James Croak, "Art Southampton – Nothing to See but Art", July 10, 2015: Link

<http://hamptonsarthub.com>

Alan Carvaljo, "Rancho Mirage Artists Tour", April 14, 2014, Cambridge Video Productions, YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2E2-rhkrhE>

Angela Romeo: Colliding Worlds, July, 2012 - Interview with Joe Novak, YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZRT6rP7kzg>

Michael Abatemarco, "Joe Novak", Art News, Summer, 2010

Kathryn M Davis, "Joe Novak: Color Dimensions", Art Ltd., May-June 2010; Visual Art Source, April 2, 2010

Julie Sasse and Emily Handlin, "Trouble in Paradise", exhibition catalog, Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson,

Arizona, February, 2009

Peter Frank, "Joe Novak: Colors", exhibition catalog, Bert Green Fine Art, Los Angeles, California, September,

2008

Peter Frank, "Art Pick of the Week", Los Angeles Weekly, November 18-24, 2005

Christopher Knight, "Possibilities at play in fields of color", Los Angeles Times, September 30, 2005

Dottie Indyke, "Joe Novak", Art News, February 2005

Margaret Regan, "Variations on Light & Site", Tucson Weekly, February 26, 2004

Mokha Laget, "Pyro: Burned, Melted, Smoked", THE Magazine, December, 2003

Jan Adlmann, "Joe Novak: Paintings 1993-2002", THE Magazine, October, 2002

Lynne Cline, "Excursion into color and light", The Santa Fe New Mexican, August 9, 2002

Phyllis Braff, "Joe Novak: Paintings, 1993-1999", exhibition catalog, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, May, 2002
Jane Hart, "Meditative Art Soothes the Soul", Art Business News, February, 2001
Denise Kusel, "Artist channels meditation chapel", The Santa Fe New Mexican, July 28, 2000
Dennis Jarrett, "True Colors", Santa Fe Reporter, July 28, 1999
Bob Graham, Arts Editor, Datebook, "Joe Novak: Color & Light", San Francisco Chronicle, March 22, 1998
Emily Van Cleve, "Key to Joe Novak's painting", The Santa Fe New Mexican, June 7, 1996
Philip Isaacson, "Works by Joe Novak", Portland Telegram, December 17, 1995
Diane Armitage, "Joe Novak, Light Emanations", THE Magazine, October, 1995
Daniel Vaillancourt, "Light Emanations", The Santa Fe New Mexican, August 11, 1995
Gussie Fauntleroy, "Time and movement add dimension to Novak's art", The Santa Fe New Mexican, July 15, 1994
Dean Balsamo, "Novak gets back to the light with his 'Light Emanations' ", The Santa Fe New Mexican, July 31, 1992
David Staton, "Inter-Dimensional Art: Paintings Come To Life Through Lighting, Music", Albuquerque Journal, July 26, 1992
Simone Ellis, The Santa Fe New Mexican, May 10, 1991
Rose C.S. Slivka, "From the Studio", The East Hampton Star, March 22, 1990, March 30, 1989, June 16, 1988, March 31, 1988, October 22, 1987, July 16, 1987
Robert Long, "Guild Hall Picks 9 Painters, 3 Sculptors", The Southampton Press, July 30, 1987
Phyllis Braff, "Guild Hall Features New Faces", The New York Times, July 26, 1987
Helen A. Harrison and Rae Ferren, "New Spaces /New Faces", exhibition catalogue, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, 1987
Robert Long, "40 Area Artists Start Season at Vered", The Southampton Press, April 30, 1987
Robert Long, "Three at Vered", The East Hampton Star, May 9, 1985
Helen A. Harrison, "Winners in Parrish Biennial", The New York Times, December 28, 1984
Phyllis Braff, "From the Studio", The East Hampton Star, October 4, 1984

Education

Crown Point Press, San Francisco, California, Etching workshops, 2000-2002
The New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture, New York, New York, 1982
New York University, New York, New York, Intaglio print workshop, 1982
Parsons School of Design, New York, New York, Studio art courses, 1981-1982
Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, J.D. 1955
Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, B.A. 1952

Public Collections

Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, California
Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio
Frost Art Museum, FIU, Miami, Florida
Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts
New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico
NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, California
Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, California
Springfield Museums, Springfield, Massachusetts
Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona
University of Texas, Edinburg, Texas
Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, Minnesota

California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, California
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire
Eisenhower Medical Center, Rancho Mirage, California
HSBC Bank USA, New York, New York
New Mexico State Capitol Collection, Santa Fe, New Mexico
St. Vincent Hospital, Santa Fe, New Mexico
University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center Collection, Albuquerque, New Mexico