

GALERIE ZADRA

Michael Hafftka

b. 1953, Manhattan, NY, USA. Lives & works Brooklyn, NY, USA.

Michael Hafftka has been a practicing artist for 45 years. During this time Hafftka has ignored the vagaries of the art world, resolutely and unfailingly following his own vision instead. His worldview has been shaped by his family's devastating history: his parents, Simon Hafftka and Eva Hershko, were European refugees and Holocaust survivors; from his father's family, only his father and a cousin survived. A recurring theme in his work is the quest for freedom. While some works deal directly with his family and war trauma, Hafftka is a painter of his time, constantly responding to the world around him, drawing on religious texts, literature and music. In all of his works, Hafftka's figures reveal his great sensitivity to humanity's frailties. It is this particular quality that gives his paintings tremendous power.

Francis Bacon recognised the uniqueness of Hafftka's work when they met while Bacon was in New York. When Hafftka showed him several reproductions of his paintings, Bacon described them as beautiful and asked to keep the images.

Hafftka's works have been exhibited internationally and are held in many important museums in America.

Public Collections

Museum of Modern Art, New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Brooklyn Museum, New York
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
New York Public Library Collection, New York
Museum of Fine Arts Houston, TX
The Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum, TX
Housatonic Museum of Art, Bridgeport, CT
Art Museum of S. Texas, Corpus Christi, TX
Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX
Arizona State University Art Museum
University Museum at Texas State University, Houston
Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY
Central High School, Philadelphia, PA
Chapman University Permanent Art Collection, Orange, CA

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Solo exhibitions

- 2015 Georges Bergès Gallery, SoHo, New York, NY
- 2012 Vaudeville Park, Brooklyn, NY
- 2012 Chapman University's Phyllis and Ross Escalette Permanent Collection of Art, Orange, CA
- 2009-10 Mizel Center for Arts and Culture, Denver, CO
- 2009 Yeshiva University Museum, New York, NY
- 2004-5 Housatonic Museum of Art, Bridgeport, CT
- 2003 Susan Aberbach Gallery, New York, NY
- 2002 Cobble Hill Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 1999 Aberbach Fine Art, New York, NY
- 1998 Louis Dijkstra Kunsthandel, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1996 Louis Dijkstra Kunsthandel, Waalwijk, The Netherlands
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- 1995 Louis Dijkstra Kunsthandel, Waalwijk, The Netherlands
- 1992 Mary Ryan Gallery, New York
- 1991 Aberbach Fine Art, New York
- 1991 David Aberbach Fine Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 1990 Aberbach Fine Art, Art Cologne, Germany
- 1988 PS Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1987 Dilaurenti Gallery, New York
- 1987 Marc Richards Gallery, Los Angeles, California
- 1987 Mary Ryan Gallery, New York
- 1987 Janet Steinberg Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 1986 Louis Dijkstra Kunsthandel, Waalwijk, The Netherlands
- 1986 Rosa Esman Gallery, New York
- 1986 Yares Gallery, Scottsdale Arizona
- 1984 Rosa Esman Gallery, New York
- 1984 Louis Dijkstra Kunsthandel, Waalwijk, The Netherlands
- 1984 Hewlett Gallery, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1984 H.F. Manes Gallery, New York
- 1983 Art Galaxy, New York
- 1982 Gotham Book Mart Gallery, New York

Group exhibitions

- 2015 Georges Bergès Gallery, SOHO, New York, NY
- 2007 Arizona State University Art Museum, AZ
- 2006-07 Musee des Beaux-Arts d'Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium
- 2005 Amarillo Museum of Art, Amarillo, TX
- 2000 Baron Boisante Gallery, New York
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- 1998 Museum of Modern Art, Antwerp, Belgium
- 1991 Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, Arizona
- 1991 Wooster Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1989 Artstart, Scottsdale, Arizona
- 1987 "Art for Your Collection", Marion Koogler McNay Museum, San Antonio, TX

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- 1987 "The Artist and the Myth", Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art, Monterey, CA
1987 Marc Richards Gallery, Los Angeles, California
1987 Yares Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
1986-88 "Jewish Themes/Contemporary American Artists II", the Jewish Museum, New York; also Spertus Museum, Chicago, IL, National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, PA
1986-88 "Portrait of a Collector: Stephane Janssen", Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humleback, Denmark; also University Art Museum, California State University, Palm Beach, CA, Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami, FL, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, AZ
1986-87 "Public and Private American Prints Today", The Brooklyn Museum, New York; also Flint Institute of the Arts, Michigan, Rhode Island School of Design, RI, Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Walker art Center, Minneapolis
1986 "Naked/Nude", Museum of Modern Art, New York
1985 "Surplus" Exit art, New York
1984 "Invitational", Mendelson Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA
1984 "Selected Drawings by Eleven Artists", Willard Gallery, New York
1983 "Art of Found Objects", Gallery Schlesinger-Boisante, New York
1982 "The Crime Show", ABC No Rio, New York
1982 "Summer Invitational", Rosa Esman Gallery, New York
1982 "Artist Protest", Pratt Graphics Center, New York
1982 "The New Menace", Gallery Schlesinger-Boisante, New York
1982 "Dirty Pictures", White Columns, New York
1981 "Invitational", Gallery Schlesinger-Boisante, New York
1980 Gruenbaum Gallery, New York
1977 Museum of the Cathedral of Saint John, New York
1976 Rabinowitch and Guerra Gallery, New York

Monographs

Since 2013

Huffington Post blogger

- 2007 "Conscious/Unconscious", fiction with drawings by Michael Hafftka, published by Six Gallery Press, Pittsburgh, PA
2004 "Michael Hafftka, A Retrospective: Large Oils 1985-2003", published by Housatonic Museum of Art, Bridgeport, CT
1987 "Michael Hafftka, New Paintings" with text by Sam Hunter, published by Dilaurenti Gallery, New York
1984 "Michael Hafftka" with text by Elaine King and John Caldwell, published by Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
1982 "Michael Hafftka, Selected Drawings 1975-81", text by Michael Brodsky. Published by Guignol Books, New York. Also available, a deluxe edition of fifty with an etching.
1982 Zwart en Wit 82.3, reproduction of 12 drawings, Oosterbeek, Holland
1981 "Art of Experience, Experience of Art" published by Guignol Books, New York

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Other Publications

- 2015 "Toy Chest", The Yale Review, author William Gass, art by Michael Hafftka, included in Eyes, novellas and stories, published by Knopf
- 2014 "KM4", Blackbird Journal of Literature and the Arts, poems by Tom Sleigh & art by Michael Hafftka
- 2013 "To Die Next to You", Six Gallery Press, poetry by Rodger Kamenetz, drawings by Hafftka
- 2008 "Circular Stairs, Distress in the Mirrors", Six Gallery Press, poetry by Peter Klapert, art by Hafftka
- 2008 "West Virginia", Six Gallery Press, fiction by Che Elias, art by Hafftka
- 2008 "A Heaven Of Others", Starcherone Books, fiction by Joshua Cohen, art by Hafftka
- 2007 "The Terror of Loch Ness", Six Gallery Press, fiction by Che Elias, art by Hafftka
- 2007 "Aleph-Bet, An Alphabet For The Perplexed", Six Gallery Press, text by Joshua Cohen, art by Hafftka
- 1986 "Public and Private: American Prints Today", The Brooklyn Museum, New York
- 1986 "Portrait of a Collector", Louisiana Museum of Modern art, Humlebeek, Denmark
- 1986 "Jewish Themes/Contemporary American Artists II", the Jewish Museum, New York
- 1985 "Surplus", Exit Art, New York

Print Portfolios

- 1986 "The Other Half", folio of five monoprints with drypoint. Published by Mark Baron, New York
- 1986 "Neighbors", folio of 6 monoprints, published by Mary Ryan Gallery, New York
- 1985 "Second Hand", folio of five etchings, published by Mark Baron, New York
- 1985 "Undertones", "Overtones", companion suites, each with 4 monoprints with etching. Published by Mark Baron, New York
- 1981 "Incisions", folio of 10 etchings with etched title and colophon page, published by Mark Baron, New York

Miscellaneous

- 2015 Review of solo show at SFAQ/NYAQ/AQ, October Issue
- 2015 Review of solo show at Whitewall Magazine, September Issue
- 2015 Interview in Artnet, September Issue
- 2000 Tikkun Magazine cover, October/September Issue
- 1987 Inclusion in "A Calendar of Art and Antiques", Channel 13.
- 1982 "Pointless Gesture", a film by John Rosen depicting a street action by Hafftka. 11 min., 16 mm, color and sound.

Grants & Honours

- 8/2009 New York Times, notable alumnus of DeWitt Clinton High School
- 1983 C.A.P.S. grant for painting

Artist website

www.hafftka.com