

# Wally Hedrick

Wally Hedrick (1928-2003) is an activist american artist. Key figure in the first important public manifestation of the Beat Generation, he is co-founder of Six Gallery, San Francisco, where took place the reading «Six poets at Six Gallery» on which occasion the audience discovered for the first time Allen Ginsberg and his poem «Howl». Veteran of the Korean War, he is above the first artists that publicly denounced American interference in Southeast Asia. He taught for over ten years at San Francisco Art Institute, and was an important voice of political activism. He stopped teaching for two semesters, hanging a large black sign that read “*Classes cancelled until the end of the war*”. From the 1950s, he painted his first american flags on which were written «*Burn Me!*», «*Peace*» (proper anti-US manifests preceding the flags of Jasper Johns). In 1957, he started the series «Black Paintings», which continued until his death in 2003. For this purpose, he covers his own paintings – according to rumours, those of others as well – with black monochromes, applying several layers corresponding to successive wars: Vietnam (1955-1975), Gulf War (1990-1991), Iraq (2003-2011). The performative gesture taking precedence and covering an original motif, a monochrome repentance. Sign of mourning for a freedom of mined creation, a solitary manifestation of solidarity. According to his own words: «*Since there is no way for me to affect any political decision, what I’ll do is I’ll deny Western Culture my contribution.*» (2)

Air de Paris is delighted to exhibit this oeuvre in France for the first time. On that occasion five canvases will be presented, whose titles disclose a creaking sense of humour: «*Black Bush Burning*», «*Vietnam Series XXI Old Generals Never Die, They Just Send Young People To Their Death*». In dialogue, will also be presented a tribute by Allen Ruppersberg in the window.

Wally Hedrick’s were part of Paul McCarthy’s «Low Life Slow Life» at the Wattis Institute for Contemporary Art, San Francisco, in 2008, as well as «Beat Culture and the New America, 1950-1965» at Whitney Museum of American Art in 1995. They are part of prestigious public collections such as New York Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Young Museum.

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2. Marcus, Greil. “*The Incredible Disappearing Act*” San Francisco Focus, October 1991. Wally Hedrick *The Absence of Light: Black Paintings (1957-2003)*, 30 Avril - 11 Juin, 2016, The Box, LA



Installation views, *The Absence of Light: Black Paintings (1957-2003)*, Wally Hedrick  
The Box, Los Angeles, 2016.

## **Wally HENDRICK**

Born in Pasadena, California, 1928

Died in Bodega Bay, California, on December 17, 2003

1947 Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA

1954 California College of Arts & Crafts, Oakland, CA

1953-1955 California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA

1956-1958 San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

### **Selected Solo Exhibitions**

2016

The Absence of Light: Black Paintings (1957-2003), The Box, Los Angeles, CA

2010

Wally Hedrick, The Box, Los Angeles, CA

2008

Wally Hedrick: War Room, The Box, Los Angeles, CA

2007

Wally Hedrick: Estate Sale, Michael Kohn Galley, Los Angeles, CA

2003

Wally Hedrick, Linc Art, San Francisco, CA

2003

Wally Hedrick: Pre-emptive Peace, Sonoma State University Art Gallery

2000

Wally Hedrick: Paintings, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

1999

Wally Hedrick: Provisions, Sonoma Museum of Visual Art, Santa Rosa

1996

Wally Hedrick: Madonnas, Gods & Goddesses, King-Heller Gallery, Bodega Bay

1994

Classic Hedrick, Mills College Art Gallery, Oakland

Wally Hedrick: Paintings, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

1990

Wally Hedrick: Paintings, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

1985

Wally Hedrick: Selected Works, San Francisco Art Institute (catalogue), CA

1984

Wally Hedrick, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

1982

Wally Hedrick, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

1967

Wally Hedrick, San Francisco Art Institute, CA

1963

Wally Hedrick, New Mission Gallery, San Francisco, CA

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2017

The Rat Bastard Protective Association, curated by Anastasia Aukeman, Susan Inglett Gallery, New York, NY  
Bruno Serralongue and Wally Hedrick, Air de Paris, Paris, France

2016

The Rat Bastard Protective Association, curated by Anastasia Aukeman, The Landing Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2013

SIGHT / VISION: The Urban Milieu, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

2012

Painting, The Box, Los Angeles, CA

Renaissance on Fillmore, 1955-1965, curated by Michael Schwager. DiRosa, Napa, CA  
The Historical Box curated by Mara McCarthy, Hauser & Wirth, London

The Historical Box, curated by Mara McCarthy, Hauser & Wirth, Zurich

2011

Wally Hedrick and William T. Wiley, The Mayor Gallery, London (catalogue)

Beyond Tradition: Art Legacies at the Richmond Art Center, in celebration of the Richmond Art Center's 75th Anniversary

2010

Sunless, curated by Walead Beshty Thomas Dane Gallery, London I.G.Y. curated by Todd Levin. Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY Oakland Museum of California Grand Reopening May 2010

2011

Bella Pacifica, Bay Area Abstraction, 1946-1963, A Symphony in Three Parts, David Nolan Gallery, New York; Nyehaus, New York; Franklin Parrasch Gallery, New York

2009

Looking For Mushrooms–Beat Poets, Funk and Minimal Art: Art and Counterculture in San Francisco around 1968, Museum Ludwig, Cologne

Sight Vision Revisited, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA

2008

Mysteries, curated by Melissa E. Feldman, Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Paul McCarthy's Low Life Slow Life: Part 1, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA

Freedom of Expression: Political Art in an Age of Uncertainty, University Art Gallery, Sonoma State University, CA American Pop, Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

2007

The Creamery: FUNK ART etc from Bodega, the 8 gallery, San Francisco, CA Artists of Invention: A Century of CAA, Oakland Museum of California, CA

### **Public Collections**

Museum of Modern Art, New York

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Oakland Museum of California

di Rosa Preserve, Napa

San Jose Museum of Art

Berkeley Art Museum, University of California

Phoenix Art Museum

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco- de Young Museum Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa

Mills College, Oakland

San Francisco Art Commission Civic Art Collection