

## ARTHUR OSVER

### BORN:

1912 Chicago, IL  
1936 Moved to Cagnes-sur-Mer, France  
1940 Moved to New York City, NY  
1965 Moved to St. Louis, MO

DIED: 2006

### EDUCATION:

1931-36 Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
1930-31 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

### ONE PERSON EXHIBITIONS:

2012 Arthur Osver: A Centennial Celebration, Philip Slein Gallery, St. Louis, MO  
2008 Works on Paper, St. Louis Community College, Meramec, MO  
2007 Memorial exhibition, Philip Slein Gallery, St. Louis, MO  
2004 Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO  
2000 Arthur Osver: The Saint Louis Years (Retrospective), Saint Louis Art Museum, MO  
1999 Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO  
1997 Recent Collages, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH  
1993 Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO  
1991 Randall Gallery, St. Louis, MO

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- 1987            B. Z. Wagman Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1984            Timothy Burns Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1981            Arthur Osver: The University Years (Retrospective), Washington University  
Gallery of Art (now Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum) & travels to University  
of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AK  
Timothy Burns Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1977            Terry Moore Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1975            Valley House Gallery, Dallas, TX  
Terry Moore Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 1969            Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, MO  
St. Louis Artists' Guild, MO
- 1968            Retrospective, Gallery of Loretto-Hilton Center, Webster University, St. Louis,  
MO  
Iowa State FOCUS Art Festival, Ames, IA
- 1966            Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Martin Schweig Gallery, St. Louis, MO  
Maryville College, St. Louis, MO
- 1964            St. Louis Artists' Guild and Milton College, WI
- 1957            Grand Central Art Galleries, New York City, NY
- 1954            University of Florida, Gainesville
- 1951            Grand Central Art Galleries, New York City, NY  
University of Florida, Gainesville

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- 1949            Grand Central Art Galleries, New York City, NY  
Solo exhibition, Syracuse University, NY
- 1948            Grand Central Art Galleries, New York City, NY (**named by Art News as one of the year's ten best solo exhibitions (along with those of Max Beckmann, Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, and Ben Shahn))**  
Solo exhibition, University of Chattanooga
- 1947            Grand Central Art Galleries (featuring The Cluster), New York City, NY  
(catalog)
- 1943            Mortimer Brandt Gallery, New York City, NY
- 1940            Gallery House, Chicago, IL
- 1937            Galerie des Beaux Arts, Cagnes-sur-Mer, France

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2006            Two-person exhibition (with Ernestine Betsberg), Philip Slein Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2002            Two-person exhibition (with Ernestine Betsberg), Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, St. Louis, MO
- 2000            Two-person exhibition (with Ellsworth Kelly), Dorothy Blau Gallery, Bal Harbour, FL
- 1988            Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1986            Art Expo '86, Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, featured at Chicago Navy Pier
- 1985            Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL

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- 1984 American Academy, Rome, Italy  
1 + 1 = 2, an exhibition of the work of thirty couples at Brentwood Gallery, St. Louis, MO (with Ernestine Betsberg)
- 1982 Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1981 Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1976 Two-person exhibition (with James Butler), Johnson-Whitty Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 1973 Mid-America Invitational, two-person exhibition (with Howard Jones) at Saint Louis Art Museum & Nelson-Atkins Museum, MO  
Drawings: America, Albrecht Gallery, St. Joseph, MO  
Large Prints, Missouri State Council on the Arts, MO
- 1972 Mid-America 4, Saint Louis Art Museum & Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO
- 1969 Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL  
A Collector's Choice, Saint Louis Art Museum, MO  
Draftsmen in Missouri, Missouri State Council on the Arts, MO  
1969–70 Printmaking in Missouri, Missouri State Council on the Arts, MO
- 1968 Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia  
Ten Missouri Painters, Missouri State Council on the Arts, MO
- 1967 Two Ventilators, included in American Federation of Arts traveling exhibition American Painting: The 1940s
- 1966 Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia  
National Mid-Year Show, Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, OH  
Second Biennial Invitational Drawing Exhibition, Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA  
*Art in Chicago Business*, Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL

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- 1964 Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL  
American Art Today, New York World's Fair, NY
- 1963 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  
Carnegie Annual Exhibition, Pittsburgh, PA  
Kane Memorial Drawing Exhibition, Providence Art Club, RI  
Drawings USA/63, St. Paul Art Center, MN
- 1962 Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia  
Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL  
The Voyage, exhibited in Art USA Now: The Johnson Collection of Contemporary American Paintings, a national and international traveling exhibition (catalog)  
Ravinia Festival Arts Exhibition, Highland Park, IL
- 1961 21st International Watercolor Biennial, Brooklyn Museum
- 1960 Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1959 Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1958 Carnegie Annual Exhibition, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1957 Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC  
Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL  
New York Artists Paint Staten Island, Staten Island Museum
- 1956 Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia  
28th Venice Biennale, Italy

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| 1955 | <p>Whitney Museum of American Art, New York<br/>         Carnegie Annual Exhibition, Pittsburgh, PA<br/>         Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL<br/>         Big Withalacoochee, exhibited in Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art (subsequently purchases the painting)<br/>         Italy Rediscovered, Munson-Williams- Proctor Institute, Utica, New York (later circulated by Smithsonian Institution)</p>   |
| 1954 | <p>Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia<br/>         63rd Annual American Exhibition, Art Institute of Chicago<br/>         American Academy in Rome, including a painting of the Siena cathedral<br/>         Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, IL</p>  |
| 1953 | <p>Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia<br/>         Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC<br/>         Bordighera, Italy (Osver's work included in Italian newsreels about the exhibition)</p>   |
| 1952 | <p>I Pittori Americani a Roma, Galleria Nazionale, Rome, Italy</p>  |
| 1951 | <p>Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC<br/>         Two-person exhibition at Queens Borough Public Library, Astoria Branch (with Betsberg)<br/>         3rd Tokyo Independent Art Exhibition<br/>         60th Annual American Exhibition, Art Institute of Chicago<br/>         Under the Tracks, Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture exhibition, City Art Museum, St. Louis</p>  |
| 1950 | <p>Two-person exhibition at Drew Fine Arts Center, Hamline University, St. Paul, MN (with Murray Turnbull)<br/>         Cranes, included in Metropolitan Museum of Art's <i>American Painting Today</i> exhibition and catalog (and later featured in <i>Life</i> magazine's review of the exhibition)<br/>         Two Ventilators, included in Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture, University of Illinois, and acquired by Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY</p> |

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| 1949      | Smokestack and Tank, included in Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Corcoran Gallery of Art   |
| 1948      | The Cluster, exhibited in 5th annual Pepsi-Cola art competition & annual exhibition of Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture, University of Illinois, IL & 24th Venice Biennale  |
| 1947-51   | Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia  |
| 1947      | Queens Elevated Highway, Carnegie Annual Exhibition, New York City (named by Art News as one of the "outstanding" abstract works of the exhibition)<br>Ice House, Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, NY<br>Steam Jet, Toledo Museum of Art & Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC                |
| 1946-48   | National Academy Galleries, New York  |
| 1946      | Monday Morning, Carnegie Annual Exhibition, New York City, NY<br>Green Ventilator, Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, NY<br>The Majestic Tenement, Grand Central Art Galleries, New York City, NY<br>Forest of Chimneys, among works purchased by Nelson A. Rockefeller for donation to nascent modern art museums in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil |
| 1945      | Red Ventilator, Carnegie Annual Exhibition, New York City, NY<br>4th Annual Audubon Artists Exhibition, National Academy Galleries, New York  |
| 1954-50   | Whitney Museum of American Art, New York  |
| 1945-1950 | Carnegie Annual Exhibition, Pittsburgh, PA  |

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- 1944            Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia  
4th Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting,  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond  
The Big Billboard, *Art Panorama*, Boston & in Annual Exhibition of  
Contemporary American Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art,  
New York & included in Carnegie Annual Exhibition, Pittsburgh, PA  
Bridal Bouquet, Portrait of America (Pepsi-Cola touring exhibition) (later  
purchased for Pepsi-Cola collection and illustrated on August cover of  
Art News)
- 1942            The Studio, 46th Annual Exhibition by Artists of Chicago, IL  
The Studio, Vicinity, Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
Melancholy of a Rooftop, Romantic Painting in America, Museum of  
Modern Art, New York City, NY
- 1940            19th International Exhibition of Watercolors, Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
Golden Gate International Exposition, San Francisco, CA
- 1939            Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
- 1938            42nd Annual Exhibition by Artists of Chicago and Vicinity, Art Institute of  
Chicago, IL  
Gallery House, Chicago, IL
- 1935            14<sup>th</sup> International Watercolor Exhibition, Art Institute of Chicago, IL

### PUBLICATIONS:

"12 Americans Hit the Spot," *Art News* 43, August 1944.  
*28th Venice Biennale exhibition catalog*, with an essay by Katharine Kuh.  
"As the Artist Sees New York," *New York Times Magazine*, February 1, 1953.  
*American Artists Paint the City*, Art Institute of Chicago, 1956.  
Arb, Renée, "Spotlight on: Osver," *Art News* 47, November 1948.



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*Arthur Osver: New Paintings from Italy* (Exhibition brochure), Evanston, IL: Fairweather-Garnett Gallery, 1954 (with "A Comment on the Exhibition" by Daniel Catton Rich).

*Arthur Osver: The Saint Louis Years*. St. Louis: Saint Louis Art Museum, (catalog) 2000 (with the essay "Arthur Osver: Mondo Mio" by Alexandra Bellos Goldsand).

*Arthur Osver: The University Years: 1960–1981* (catalog), St. Louis: Washington University, 1981 (with the essay "The University Years: 1960–1981" by Mary King).

*Art in Chicago Business* (Exhibition brochure), Fairweather-Hardin Gallery, Chicago, 1966.

Burrows, Carlyle, "Art: Mainly Subjective," *New York Herald Tribune*, April 15, 1951.

*Business Buys American Art, March 17–April 24, 1960: Third Loan Exhibition by the Friends of the Whitney Museum of American Art* (Exhibition catalog), New York: Whitney Museum of American Art, 1960.

Cole, Mary. "Girders in the Sky." *Art Digest* 25, April 15, 1951.

*Coming Home: American Paintings, 1930–1950, from the Schoen Collection*. Athens: Georgia Museum of Art, 2003 (Exhibition catalog, with illustrations and catalog entries by Drew Kane for *Red Ventilator* and *The Big Billboard*).

Devree, Howard. "Americans in Venice." *New York Times*, July 18, 1948.

Devree, Howard, "By Groups and Singly: The Whitney and Others—Kuhn and Osver." *New York Times*, November 14, 1948.

Devree, Howard, "Individual Modern: The Work of Modigliani—De Kooning—Osver." *New York Times*, April 15, 1951.

Duffy, Robert W. "'I Am Going to Miss the Students.'" *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, April 26, 1981.

Fabri, Ralph. *Painting Cityscapes*. New York: Watson-Guption, 1969.

Fortune magazine, Untitled painting on cover, March 1950.

Frankfurter, Alfred M. "Two States of the Union." *Art News* 46, November 1947.

Frankfurter, Alfred M, "The Year's Best: 1947." *Art News* 46, January 1948).

Genauer, Emily. "Arthur Osver." *New York World-Telegram*, November 16, 1948.

Genauer, Emily, "U.S. Art at Spoleto." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 29, 1958.

Gibbs, Jo. "Osver Overdue." *Art Digest* 21, April 15, 1947.

Hess, Thomas B. "Spotlight on: Osver." *Art News* 46, April 1947.

*Italy Rediscovered: An Exhibition of Work by American Painters in Italy since World War II*. Utica, NY: Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, 1955. Exhibition catalog.

Jewell, Edward Alden. "Collections in New Homes." *New York Times*, May 23, 1943.

Jewell, Edward Alden. "Divergent Abstractionists." *New York Times*, April 20, 1947.

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Jones, Barbara L., with Judith Hansen O'Toole. *Painting in the United States 2008*. Greensburg, PA: Westmoreland Museum of American Art, 2008. Exhibition catalog on Carnegie Annual Exhibitions in the 1940s.

Keating, Micheline. "The Art of Abstraction." *Tucson Daily Citizen*, April 1, 1961.

"L. I. City Painter Wins Art Award." *New York Times*, January 26, 1947.

McCue, George. D. "Arthur Osver Comes to St. Louis." *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 5, 1960.

"The Metropolitan and Modern Art." *Life*, January 15, 1951.

*Mid-America Invitational: Howard Jones and Arthur Osver*. St. Louis: Saint Louis Art Museum, 1973. Exhibition catalog, with an essay by Emily S. Rauh.

Morse, John D. "Arthur Osver." *Magazine of Art* 40, May 1947.

New York Times magazine, works reproduced, 1953

Osver. St. Louis: Gallery of Loretto-Hilton Center, 1968. (Exhibition catalog, with an essay by Kenneth E. Hudson)

Pease, Roland F., Jr. "Arthur Osver." In *Art USA Now*, edited by Lee Nordness, vol. 2, 264–67. New York: Viking, 1963.

Shopen, Kenneth. "Osver's Paintings Exhibited." *Chicago Daily News*, April 4, 1954.

Soby, James Thrall, and Dorothy C. Miller. *Romantic Painting in America*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1943 (Exhibition catalog).

Trier, Marilyn Robb. "Osvers from Italy." *Art News* 53 (May 1954): 46.

*Who's Who in American Art* (every year from 1959-2006 (his death))

### AWARDS:

1993	Named trustee emeritus, American Academy in Rome, Italy
1991	American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters award
1985	Award for Artistic Excellence, Jewish Community Center Association
1973	Purchase Prize, <i>Drawings: America</i> , Albrecht Gallery, St. Joseph, MO
1966	National Endowment for the Arts Grant

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- 1965      Blue Janus, awarded J. Henry Scheidt Memorial Prize, 161st Annual  
Exhibition of American Painting and Sculpture, Pennsylvania Academy of the  
Fine Arts
- 1961      Emily Lowe Award, Audubon Artists
- 1958      Emily Lowe Award, Audubon Artists
- 1953      American Academy in Rome fellowship renewed
- 1952      Rome Prize Fellowship in Painting (Prix de Rome), American Academy in  
Rome
- 1951      Guggenheim Fellowship
- 1949      Guggenheim Fellowship
- Purchase Prize, Chimneys and Buildings, University of Illinois
- 1947      The Majestic Tenement, awarded Temple Gold Medal and Purchase Prize,  
142nd Annual Exhibition, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, PA
- Steam Jet, awarded Purchase Prize in Contemporary American Art, Toledo  
Museum of Art
- 1946      The Majestic Tenement, awarded Hubbard Prize in Critics' Show, Grand  
Central Art Galleries, New York City, NY
- 1944      John Barton Payne Award at American Painting Today, 4th Biennial  
Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, Virginia Museum of Fine  
Arts, Richmond
- Bridal Bouquet, awarded prize in inaugural Pepsi-Cola art competition
- 1936      James Nelson Raymond Traveling Fellowship, awarded by School of the Art  
Institute of Chicago

## ARTHUR OSVER

### TEACHING:

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|---------|--|
| 1983    | Visiting artist, Portland School of Art, ME                              |
| 1974    | Visiting critic, Portland School of Art, ME                              |
| 1960-81 | Washington University, MO  |
| 1960    | Summer school, Syracuse University                                       |
| 1958    | Cooper Union, New York   |
| 1957    | Painter-in-residence, American Academy in Rome, Italy                    |
| 1956    | Yale University (visiting critic one day a week)                         |
| 1955    | Cooper Union, New York   |
|         | Participates in symposium "Art: The Past Fifty Years," Sarasota, Florida |
| 1954    | Artist-in-Residence, University of Florida, Gainesville                  |
| 1950    | Columbia University, New York City, NY                                   |
| 1947    | Brooklyn Museum Art School   |

### IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS:

ArcelorMittal, Chicago, IL  
Art Institute of Chicago, IL  
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, CO  
Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington  
Des Moines Art Center, IA  
Figge Art Museum, Davenport, IA  
The John and Susan Horseman Collection, St. Louis, MO

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John Burroughs School, St. Louis, MO  
Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, NY  
Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis, MO  
Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York City, NY  
New Orleans Museum of Art, LA  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA  
The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC  
Saint Louis Art Museum, MO  
Saint Louis University Museum of Art, MO  
The Jason Schoen Collection, Miami, FL  
Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, NE  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC  
Syracuse University Art Galleries, NY  
University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City, NY