

SONJA SEKULA

Born 1918 in Luzern, Switzerland

Died 1963 in Zurich, Switzerland

EDUCATION

1941 Studied at Art Students League, New York, New York

1937 Studied at Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Unruly Lines: The Art of Sonja Sekula*, Grinnell College Museum of Art, Grinnell, IA, Gund Museum, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
- 2023 *Sonja Sekula: Works from 1942 – 1963*, Peter Blum Gallery, New York, NY
- 2022 *Sonja Sekula*, Galerie Knoell, Basel, Switzerland
- 2017 *Sonja Sekula: A Survey*, Peter Blum Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 *Sonja Sekula & Friends*, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland
- 2016 *Sonja Sekula, Arbeiten auf Papier*, Galerie HILT, Basel, Switzerland
- 2004 *Sonja Sekula. 8.4.1918 Luzern bis 25.4.1963 Zürich*, Galerie HILT, Basel, Switzerland
- 2001 *Sonja Sekula (1918-1963), Ölgemälde, Gouache, Collagen, Scratch*, Galerie HILT, Basel, Switzerland
- 1999 *Sonja Sekula (1918-1963). Candle in the Wind*, Galerie HILT, Basel, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula 1918-1963. Malerei. USA – Die Jahre danach, Galerie Claudine Hohl, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1997 *Sonja Sekula USA / CH (1918-1963)*, Galerie HILT, Basel, Switzerland
- 1996 *Sonja Sekula, Von New York nach Zürich 1943-1963*, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland / *Sonja Sekula (1918-1963): A Retrospective*, Swiss Institute, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 1995 *Sonja Sekula*, Galerie Zodiaque Perroy, Switzerland
- 1992 *Sonja Sekula 1918-1963*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula, Galerie Zodiaque, Perroy, Switzerland
- 1989 *Sonja Sekula*, Galerie Zodiaque, Perroy, Switzerland
- 1987 *Sonja Sekula 1918-1963. Zum Andenken*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1984 *Sonja Sekula (1919[sic]-1963). Peintures, gouaches et collages*, Galerie Zodiaque, Perroy, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula. Peintures-Gouaches-Dessins-Collages, Focus Gallery, Lausanne, Switzerland

PETER BLUM GALLERY

- 1978 *Sonja Sekula, (1919[sic]-1963). Peintures, gouaches et collages*, Galerie Zodiaque, Perroy, Switzerland
- 1977 *Sonja Sekula, Oeuvres*, Galerie Saint-Antoine, Genève, Switzerland
- 1976 *Sonja Sekula. Gemälde + Zeichnungen*, Galerie zur Matze, Brig, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula (1919[sic]-1963). Peintures, gouaches et collages, Galerie Zodiaque, Perroy, Switzerland
- 1975 *Sonja Sekula*, Galerie Cinq, Lausanne, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula 1918-1963, Galerie Orell Füssli, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1973 *Sonja Sekula*, Swiss Bank Association, Hottingen branch, Zurich, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula. Peintures, collages, dessins, Galerie Jeanne Wiebenga, Epalinges, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1971 *Sonja Sekula. Paintings, Drawings and Poetry*, Contemporary Wing, Finch College Museum of Art, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 1969 *Joachim Breustedt / Sonja Sekula*, Galerie Jeanne Wiebenga, Epalinges, Switzerland
- 1967 *Sonja Sekula 1918-1963*, Galerie d'art modern Jeanne Wiebenga, Epalinges, Switzerland
- 1966 *Arend Fuhrmann / Jenny Losinger-Ferry / Sonja Sekula*, Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, Helmhaus, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1964 *Sonja Sekula (1918 – 1963)*, Gimpel & Hanover Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1962 *Galería Fortuny*, Madrid, Spain
- 1961 *Sonja Sekula. Collages*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1960 *Sonja Sekula*, Galerie L'Entracte, Lausanne, Switzerland
Sonja Sekula, Malerei / Trudi Demut. Plastic, Galerie 58, Rapperswil, Switzerland
- 1959 *Sonja Sekula, Zurich / Duncan, Paris*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1958 *Sekula. Quince años de pinturas 1943-1958*, Galeria Don Hatch, Caracas, Venezuela (catalogue)
- 1957 *Sonja Sekula*, Galerie Palette, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1955 *Paintings and Drawings by Sonja Sekula*, Boylston Street Print Gallery, Cambridge, MA
- 1952 *Sonja Sekula, Paintings & Scratchboards*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1951 *Sonja Sekula*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1950 *Sonja Sekula*, Bookshop Gallery, The London Gallery, London, UK
- 1949 *Sekula. Drawings – Gouaches*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1948 *Sonja Sekula, Paintings*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1946 *Sonja Sekula. First Exhibition of Painting*, Art of this Century Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 *Abstract Expressionists: The Women*, Muscarelle Museum of Art, William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA
- 2023 *Making American Artists: Stories from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, 1776–1976*, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, PA
Action / Gesture / Paint: a global story of women and abstraction 1940-70, Whitechapel Gallery, London from February 7 – May 9, 2023; Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles, France, June 4 – October 22, 2023; Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Germany, December 2, 2023 – March 3, 2024
- 2022 *We Fancy*, The Art Students League of New York, New York, NY
Brosseau Center for Learning: Mining the Gap, The Jack and Lavon Brosseau Center for Learning, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
- 2021 *A Future We Begin to Feel: Women Artists 1921-1971*, Rosenberg & Co., New York, NY
Women of Abstraction: Artists on Eastern Long Island 1960-2020, Parrish Art Museum, Watermill, NY
- 2020 *Degree Zero: Drawing at Midcentury*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
- 2019 *Sparkling Amazons: Abstract Expressionist Women of the 9th St. Show*, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY
Surrealism Switzerland, Museo d'arte della Svizzera italiana Lugano, curated by Tobia Bezzola and Francesca Benini, Lugano, Italy
- 2018 *Carnival of the Animals: From the Kunstmuseum Collection*, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland
Surrealism Switzerland, Aargauer Kunsthau, curated by Peter Fischer and Julia Schallberger, Aarau, Switzerland
- 2017 *NO EXIT*, Peter Blum Gallery, New York, NY
Seachange: Contemporary Highlights, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2015 *Seachange: Abstraction in Norman Lewis' Time*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 *Forms of Thought*, Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
- 2011 *Abstract Expressionism and its Discontents*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
- 2010 *Post-War American Art: The Novak/O'Doherty Collection*, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
- 2008 *Dunkelschwern*, Aargauer Kunsthau, Aarau, Switzerland

PETER BLUM GALLERY

- 2007 *Pathways and Parallels: Roads to Abstract Expressionism*, Hollis Taggart Galleries, New York, NY
- 1996 *The Surrealists and Their Friends on Eastern Long Island at Mid-Century*, Guild Hall Museum, Easthampton, NY (catalogue)
- 1995 *Neun Räume-einige Fenster: Der Erweiterungsbau – Die Sammlung*, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1994 *Projekt Sammlung: Meisterwerke des 16. Bis 20. Jahrhunderts aus der Sammlung des Kunstmuseums Luzern*, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland
- 1993 *Dimension Schweiz 1915-1993: Von der frühen Moderne zur Kunst der Gegenwart*, Museion, Museum für Moderne Kunst, Bolzano (catalogue)
- 1990 *Contrasts*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1989 *Abstract Expressionism: Other Dimensions. An Introduction to Small Scale Painterly Abstraction in America, 1940-1965*, toured: Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL; Terra Museum of American Art, Chicago, IL (1990); The Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum, New Brunswick, NJ (1990) (catalogue)
- 1988 *30 Jahre Konkrete Kunst*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1987 *Angelica, Anna und andere Schwestern von gestern*, Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland
- 1978 *Banken fördern Kunst*, Städtische Galerie zum Strauhof, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1976 *30th Anniversary Show*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1975 *Artistes suisses*, Manoir de Martigny, Martigny, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1969 *Hommage à Helen Dahm, Karl Ballmer, Charles Rollier, Sonja Sekula, Emanuel Jacob*, Galerie Palette, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1966 *Arend Fuhrmann, Jenny Losinger-Ferri, Sonja Sekula*, Stadthaus, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1961 *Der Surrealismus und verwandte Strömungen in der Schweiz*, Kunstsammlung der Stadt Thun, Switzerland (catalogue)
- Zürcher Künstler in Helmhaus und Stadthaus*, Helmhaus und Stadthaus, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- GSMBuk: Gesellschaft Schweizerischer Malerinnen, Bildhauerinnen und Kunstgeweblerinnen, Sektion Zürich*, Kunsthaus Zürich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1960 *Contrastes II*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- Zürcher Künstler im Helmhaus und Stadthaus*, Helmhaus und Stadthaus, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- 1959 *Zürcher Konkrete Kunst*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- Contrasts*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- Zürcher Künstler im Helmhaus und Stadthaus*, Helmhaus und Stadthaus, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
- Weinachtsausstellung*, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland

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- 1958 *22. Ausstellung der Gesellschaft schweizerischer Malerinnen, Bildhauerinnen und Kunstgewerblerinnen*, in the framework of *Saffa. 2. Ausstellung: Die Schweizer Frau, ihr Leben, ihr Arbeit*, Zurich, Switzerland (catalogue)
Collages, Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1957 Amherst College, Amherst, MA
Dezember-Ausstellung, Galerie Palette, Zurich, Switzerland
- 1956 *Annual Exhibition of Contemporary*, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue)
The University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA
- 1955 *Ten Years*, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1954 *Summer Exhibition*, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Le dessin contemporain aux Etats-Unis (organized by The Art Institute of Chicago), Pavillon Vendôme, Aix-en-Provence, France (catalogue)
Paintings, Sculpture, Drawings, Prints, Sales and Rental Gallery, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Group show: Drawing, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
- 1953 *International Watercolor Exhibition: Seventeenth Biennial*, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY (catalogue)
- 1952 *University of Illinois Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting*, College of Fine and Applied Arts, Urbana, IL (catalogue)
The Artists' Exchange Gallery, Santa Fe, CA
Contemporary Drawings From 12 Countries: 1945-1952, The Art Institute of Chicago. Toured The Toledo Museum of Art; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford; San Francisco Museum of Art; Los Angeles County Museum; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; The J.B. Speed Art Museum, Louisville, KY. (catalogue)
Thirty U.S. Contemporaries: Paintings, San Francisco Museum of Art, CA
An Exhibition of Contemporary Religious Art and Architecture, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY
- 1951 *International Watercolor Exhibition: Sixteenth Biennial*, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY (catalogue)
9th Street: Exhibition of Paintings and Sculpture, New York, NY
- 1950 *Accrochage*, Galerie Jeanne Bucher, Paris, France
Young American Artists, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
Annual Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (catalogue)
- 1949 *Fifty-Ninth Annual Exhibition of Contemporary Art*, Nebraska Art Association, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY

International Watercolor Exhibition: Fifteenth Biennial, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY (catalogue)

- 1948 *Watercolors From the 27th Annual Exhibition of the California Watercolor Society*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
Survey of Season, Betty Parsons Gallery, New York, NY
Museo de Arte Moderna de Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 1947 *Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme. Le Surréalisme en 1947*, presented by André Breton and Marcel Duchamp, Galerie Maeght, Paris, France (catalogue)
- 1945 *The Women*, Peggy Guggenheim's Art of this Century Gallery, New York, NY
- 1943 *Spring Salon for Young Artists*, Peggy Guggenheim's Art of this Century Gallery, New York, NY
Exhibition by 31 Women, Peggy Guggenheim's Art of this Century Gallery, New York, NY

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2026 "Groundbreaking women of Abstract Expressionism featured in Muscarelle Museum of Art exhibition," *Artdaily*, January 24, 2026.
- 2025 "150 Stories: Lives of the Artists at the League," The Art Students League of New York, New York, NY
- 2021 "A Future We Begin to Feel: Women Artists 1921-1971," Rosenberg & Co., New York, NY (cat.)
Anger, Jenny. "Sonja Sekula and 'Art of the Mentally Ill,'" *American Art – Smithsonian Institution*, Spring 2021.
- 2020 Gibson, Eric. "Degree Zero: Drawing at Midcentury' Review: Sketching a Path Into a New Era," *Wall Street Journal*, December 5, 2020.
Heins, Marjorie. "The Two Sonias: Sekula, Gechtoff, and the Vagaries of Fame,"
- 2019 Dobrzynski, Judith. "An Expanded MoMA Adds More Women Artists," *Wall Street Journal*, October 10, 2019.
Keane, Tim. "Positively Ninth Street Women," *Hyperallergic*, November 30, 2019.
"Overdue Recognition for Abstract Expressionist and Alumna Sonja Sekula," Sarah Lawrence College, October 3, 2019.
Sparkling Amazons: Abstract Expressionist Women of the 9th St. Show, The Katonah Museum of Art, New York (cat.)
- 2017 Smith, Roberta. "Gallery Guide: Sonja Sekula," *The New York Times*, C26, April 28, 2017.
Yau, John. "Sonja Sekula's Time May Have Finally Come," *Hyperallergic*, April 29, 2017.
NO EXIT, Peter Blum Edition, New York, NY (cat.)

- 2016 *Sonja Sekula & Friends*, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland (cat.)
- 2011 *Sonja Sekula: Grace in a cow's EYE: a memoir*, Black Radish Books, Lafayette, LA (cat.)
- 2008 *Dunkelschwestern Annemarie Von Matt - Sonja Sekula*, Scheidegger & Spiess, Zurich, Switzerland (cat.)
- 1996 *Sonja Sekula: 1918-1963*, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland (cat.)
- 1995 *Kunstverein Wintertur: 75. Jahresbericht 1995*. Winterthur: Kunstverein Winterthur, P. 10, 36, 40-42. (cat.)
- 1992 Perret, Roger "Auf Bedeutungsjagd, auf Bedeutungsflucht, Die Wortund Farbkünstlerin Sonja Sekula," *Affenschaukel* 16 (1992), P. 14-15.
- 1987 *Kunstmuseum St. Gallen: Katalog der Sammlung. Gemälde, Pastelle, Glasbilder, Textile Werke, Skulpturen, Objekte*. St. Gallen: Kunstverein St. Gallen, P. 329. (cat.)
- 1984 *The Brooklyn Museum: American Watercolors, Pastels, Collages. A Complete Illustrated Listing of Works in the Museum's Collection*. St. Gallen: Kunstverein St. Gallen, P. 329. (cat.)
- 1983 *Werke des 20. Jahrhunderts von Cuno Amiet bis heute*. Aargauer Kunsthau Aarau, Switzerland, P. 419. (cat.)
Kunstmuseum Luzern: Sammlungscatalog der Gemölde. Luzern: Kunstmuseum Luzern, P. 277. (cat.)
- 1971 Foote, Nancy. "Who was Sonia Sekula?" *Art in America*, October, pg. 73-80
- 1966 *Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft: Jahresbericht 1961*. Zurich: Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, , P. 7. (cat.)
- 1961 *Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft: Jahresbericht 1966*. Zurich: Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft, P. 7, 8, 57. (cat.)

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C.
Graphische Sammlung, ETH Zürich, Switzerland
Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland
Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland
Kunsthau Zürich, Switzerland
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, NY

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Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University, NJ
Grinnell College Art Collection, Grinnell, IA
Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, KS
Women's Art Collection, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom