

# LOIS GRAHAM FIERCE ABSTRACTION : FROM THE ARCHIVES







My paintings have always been about paint. I like to play with paint. I love to push it around to see what happens. To me, oil paint seems like a living organism: infinite modulations and transformations are possible. – Lois Graham

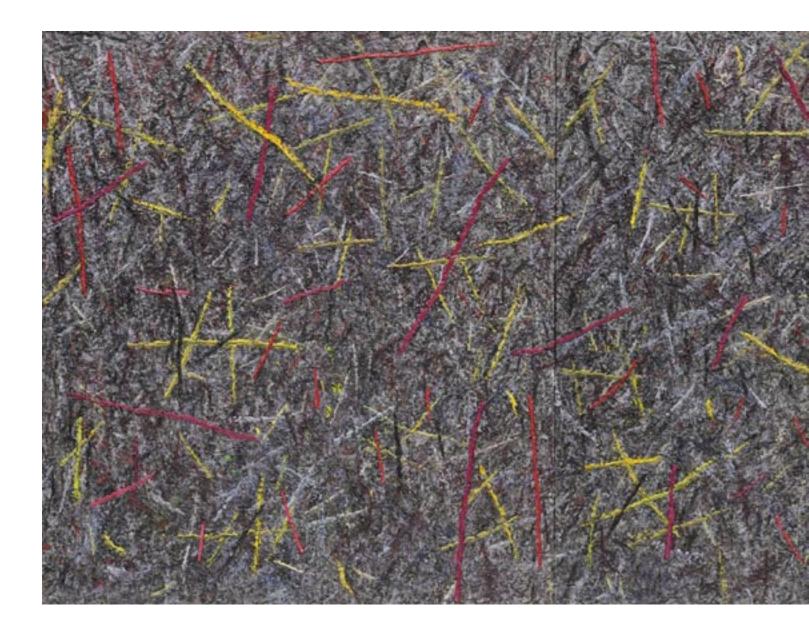
Lois Graham is recognized as one of the most influential abstract painters and printmakers of the Northwest. Her work radiates control, maintaining a constant and consistent image field that "groups her with second generation abstract expressionists such as Joan Mitchell, Philip Guston, and Jack Tworkov." Graham applied color in methodical, short, hatch strokes; she would smear, scrape, and cut through the medium into several layers. "I like to play with paint. I love to push it around to see what happens. To me, oil paint seems like a living organism: infinite modulations and transformations are possible ... I try to evoke directly intense feelings, states of mind, which can't be easily put into words."

Born in Illinois, Graham attended Knox College in Galesburg, IL and Washington University School of Fine Arts in St. Louis, Missouri during the height of abstract expressionism in the 1950's. Here she formulated ideas on cohesiveness of composition and space. Graham also studied under Lothar Schall in Stuttgart, Germany, where architecture and ornate stained glass greatly influenced her work. Graham was a guiding force in the Seattle art community. In addition to being an artist, she served on the King County Arts Commission, Artist Trust Honorary Committee, Metro Arts Advisory Committee, acted as a mentor to many young artists, and established the Union Art Co-op in 1992 with her husband Gene, as a live/work space for artists. Lois Graham passed away October 9, 2007 at the age of 77.

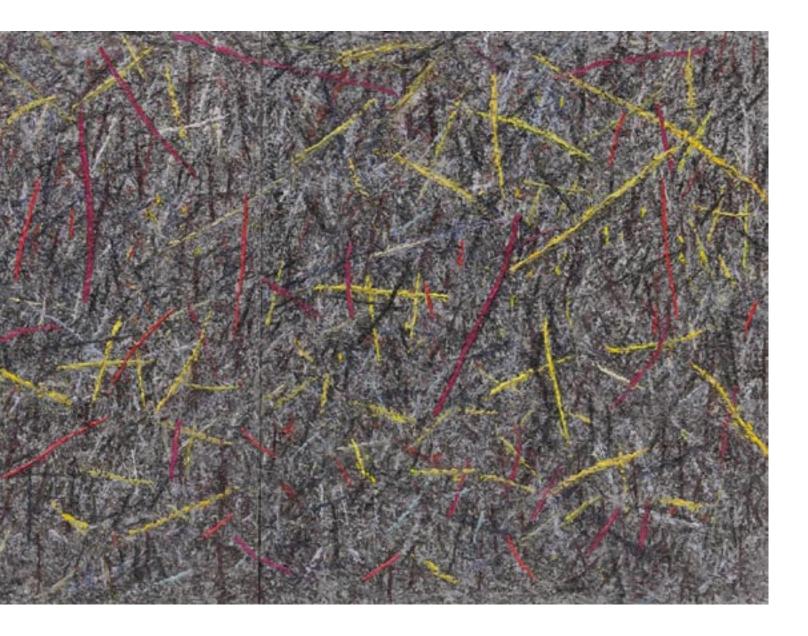
Graham has exhibited at the Foster/White Gallery since 1981. Her work is part of public and private collections in Washington and throughout the United States, including the Seattle Art Museum, the Seattle Opera House, and the Yao Cultural Center in Osaka, Japan. She is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Honors Award from the Seattle Art Commission.

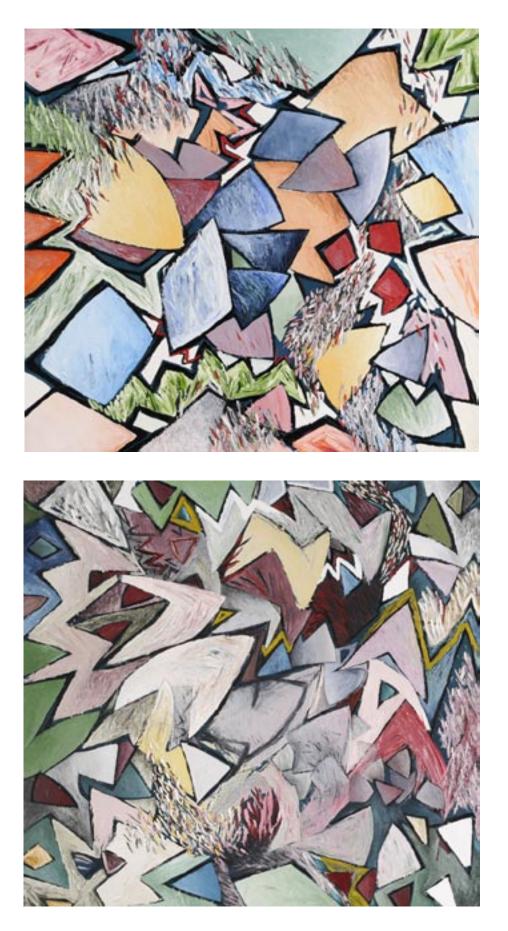




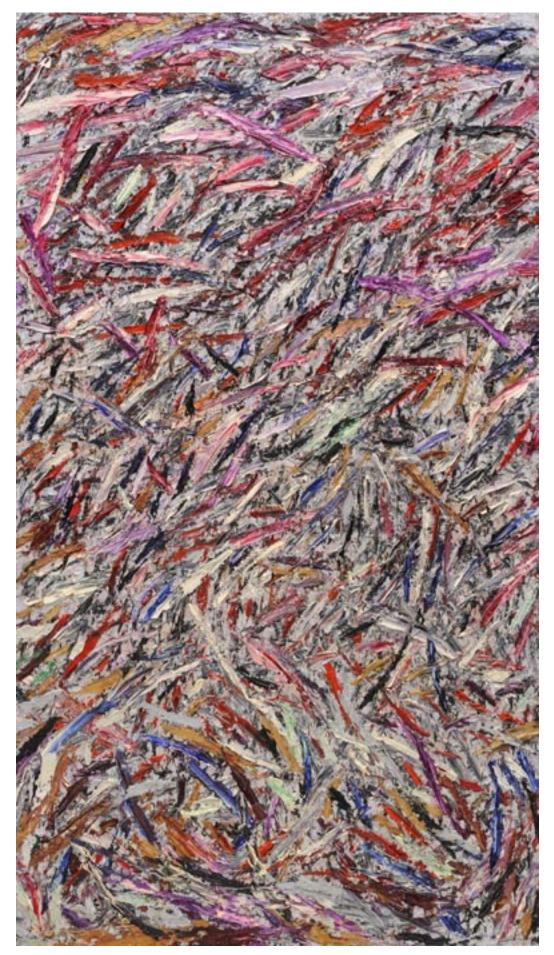


Number Eight, 1982, oil on canvas, 56 x 150 inches. \$25,000

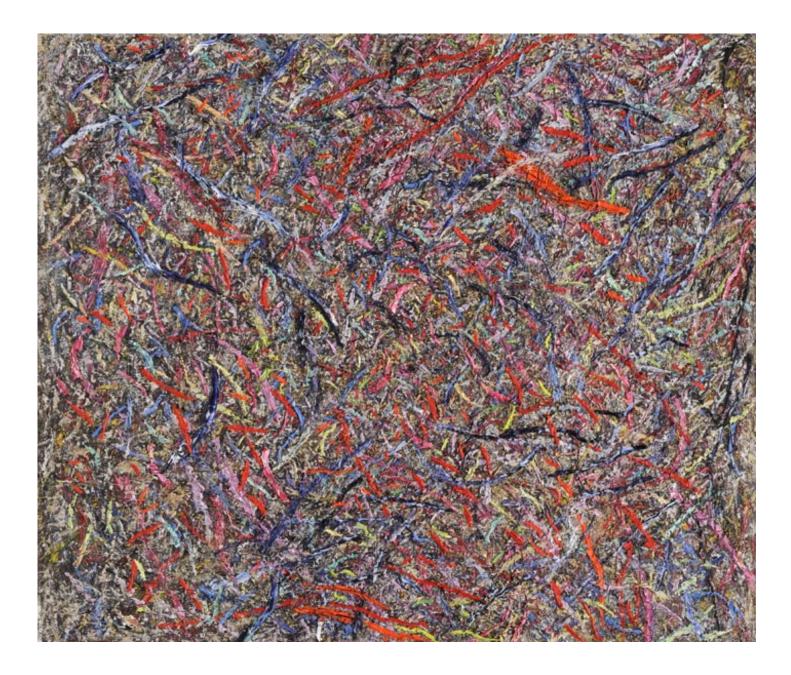


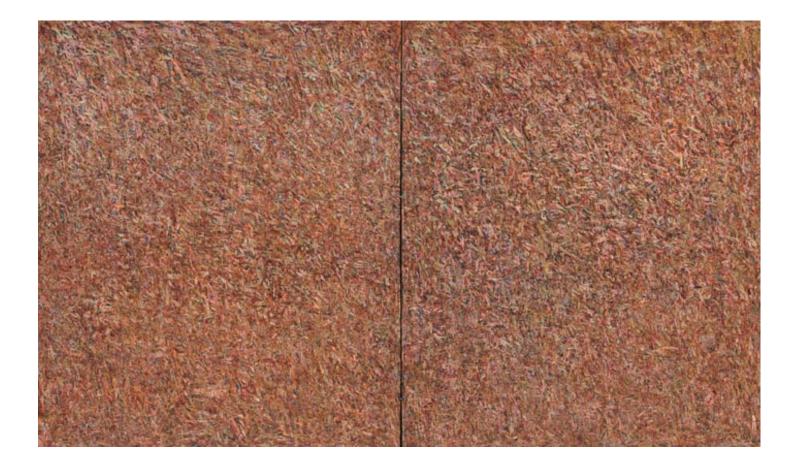


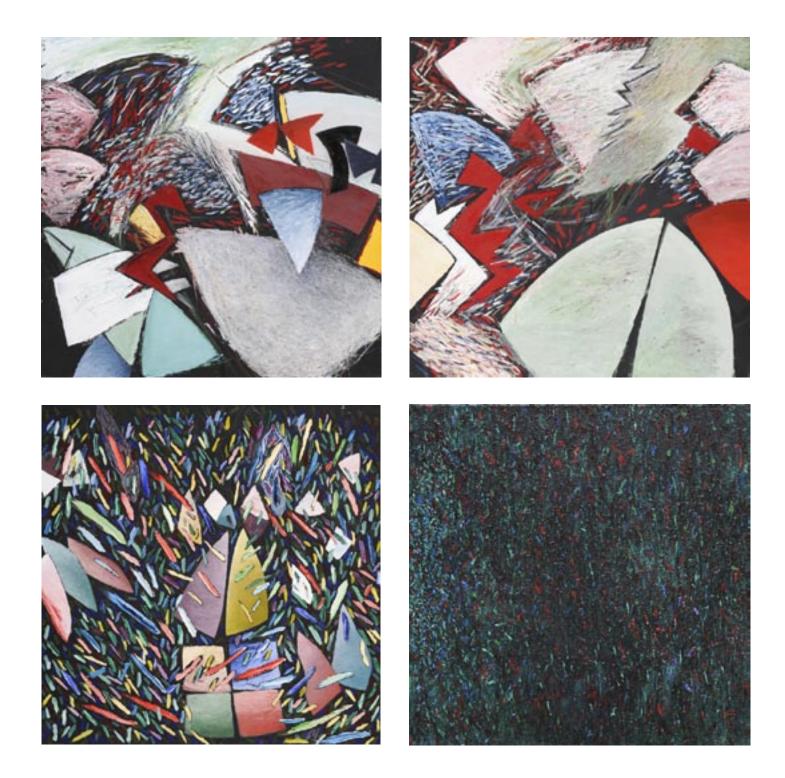
Jigsaw III, 1994, oil on canvas, 56 x 52 inches. \$10,250 Sound Effect, 1996, oil on canvas, 56 x 52 inches. \$10,250



Mirrorment, 1987, oil on canvas, 72 x 40 inches. \$10,150

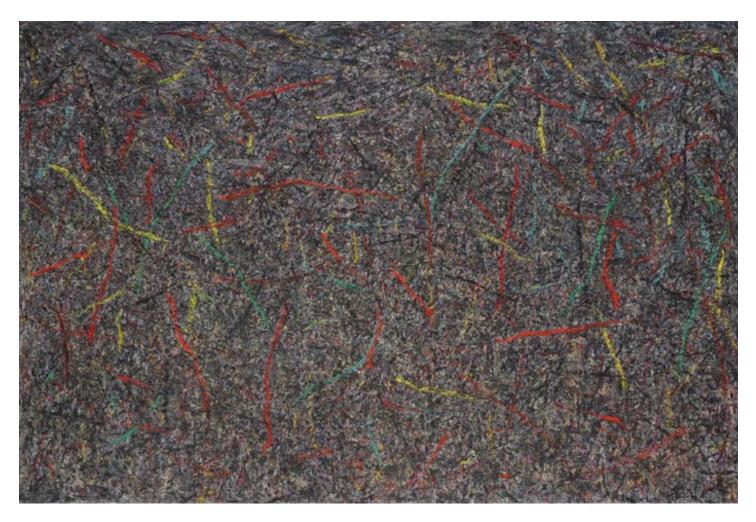






Clockwise from top:

Black Square IX Unfinished, 2003, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches. \$5000 Black Square VIII Unfinished, 2003, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches. \$5000 Black Sqaure VII Unfinished, 2003, oil on canvas, 36 x 36 inches. \$5000 Bellasaria I Unfinished, 2007 oil on canvas, 24 x 24 inches. \$3800



"Flintlight is the toughest painting of the four and the most dramatic. Glittery oiled-looking passages of paint gather into crinkled clumps of worked black-gray ground. Long undulating streamers of orange, yellow-green and turquoise-blue dance in orgiastic rhythms across the surface."

- Regina Hackett, Paint Purity is Expressive, 1982, Seattle Pl



"Graham's development as a master painter progressed from study with colorist Lothar Schall in Stuttgart to her involvement with a succession of works treating line, space, color and form independently of one another at first and then, gradually, together in an integrated fashion."

- Matthew Kangas, 1985, for Bellevue Art Museum

#### LOIS GRAHAM

#### SELECTED BIOGRAPHY

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 "Fierce Abstraction: From the Archives," Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1981 2007 Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA,
- 1995 The Whatcom Museum, Bellingham, WA
- 1988 Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA Helen S. Smith Gallery, Green River Community College, WA
- 1986 Harris Gallery, Houston, TX
- 1985 "Lois Graham: A Decade in Review," Bellevue Art Museum, Bellevue, WA
- 1984 Kirk deGooyer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1983 Artemisia Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1977 Artists Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 1967 Rubenstein-Serkez Galleries, Denver, CO

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2005 "Nordic Artists Northwest," Nordic Heritage Museum, Seattle, WA
- 2004 Toronto International Art Fair, Foster/White Gallery booth, Toronto, ON
- 2003 "10th Anniversary Exhibition," Union Art Co-operative, Seattle, WA
- 2002 "Northwest Masters," City Space (Bank of America Tower), Seattle Arts Commission Public Art Program, Seattle, WA
- 2001 "Artwork for AIDS" (also 1998, 1997, 1995 & 1993), Seattle, WA
- 1994 "Abstract Art in the Seattle Arts Commission Portable Works Collection," Seattle Center, Matthew Kangas, Curator, Seattle, WA
- 1991 "Masterworks: Pacific Northwest Arts and Crafts Now," Curator: Matthew Kangas, Bellevue Art Mu-
- seum, Bellevue, WA

"Annual Governors Conference Exhibition," Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Curator: John Olbrantz, Seattle, WA

"Art Collectors Show: Northwest Masters," Luke Wing Museum, Seattle, WA

1989 "Decade of Abstraction 1979-89," Bumberbiennale, Curator: Matthew Kangas

## EDUCATION

Washington University School of Fine Arts, St. Louis, MO Knox College, Galesburg, IL Private study with Lothar Schall, Stuttgart, Germany Factory of Visual Art Centrum Foundation, Master Workshops with Jack Tworkov and Nathan Oliviera

## HONORS

- 2004 Joan Mitchell Foundation, "2004 Painters & Sculptors Grant Award" candidate
- 1986 "Outstanding Achievement in the Arts" Award, Bellevue Arts Commission
- 1985 Merit Award recipient, "Artquest '85," United States traveling exhibition
- 1984 Honors Award, Seattle Arts Commission

# EXHIBITION MAY 6 - 29, 2010

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