

PAT O'HARA

Pat O'Hara (1936-2025) was an established abstract painter based in Vancouver. O'Hara worked in a lyrical abstract style in her primary medium of acrylic paint. For O'Hara, the process of art making was a game of challenge, chance and obsession. Travel, emotion and environment inspired the colour and composition of O'Hara's work, in which spontaneous layering of line and mark making create sensuous movement and lively energy.

O'Hara was born in Burns Lake, British Columbia and studied art at the University of British Columbia and Emily Carr College of Art and Design, where she graduated with the Merit Award for painting in 1981. Her process of art making over her multi-decade career included a variety of experimental techniques using paint-dipped strings to pull paint across two-dimensional surfaces, as well as cutting, layering, collage and weaving canvas.

Education

- 1981 Art Education, University of British Columbia
Graduate of Emily Carr College of Art and Design with a B.F.A (Honours Painting), Winner of Merit Award for painting (at E.C.C.A.D.) - 1981
- 1974 Instituto de Allende, San Miguel, Mexico
- 1963 Banff School of Fine Arts

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 "Gestures," Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2019 "Gestures," Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2018 "Serpentine", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2017 "Linearity", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2016 "Spectra", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2015 "Unfurl", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2010 "New Paintings", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2008 "Tulip", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2007 "New Paintings", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2006 "Kolkata", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2005 "Garden Abstractions", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2004 "Aeon", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 2003 "Meditation", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 2002 "Eastern Echoes", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 2001 "Bali Mystic", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 2000 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
"Multimedia", Old School House Gallery, Qualicum
- 1999 "Welcome Home", Osoyoos Art Gallery
- 1998 "Border Crossing", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
"Imagine", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1997 "Mosaic", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
"Mosaic", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 1996 Wallace Galleries, Calgary
Doug Udell, Edmonton
- 1995 "Memory Chambers", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver

BAU - XI GALLERY

- 1994 "Crossing Boundaries", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 1993 "Crossing Boundaries", Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1992 Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
Village Gallery, Lahaina, Maui
- 1991 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1990 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond
- 1989 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1988 Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 1987 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1986 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 1985 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1984 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
- 1981 901 Main Street (fifth floor)
- 1980 Federation of Canadian Artists, Vancouver
- 1978 Gallery Six, Vancouver (Fabric Pieces)
- 1977 Community Arts Council, Vancouver
- 1976 Gallery Six, Vancouver
- 1974 Exposition Galleries, Vancouver

Group Exhibitions

- 1999 "Sacred Boundaries", Bau-Xi Gallery
- 1999 "Artist Botanica", VanDusen Botanical Garden
- 1995 Vancouver Art Gallery Art Rental & Sales
"Vision Re-Vision Gordon Smith & Students", Simon Fraser University Gallery
- 1989 "Images and Objects", BC Festival of Arts, Chilliwack, (juried)
- 1988 "Geometric Concerns", Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto
- 1987 Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver
"Artropolis", Self Image section, Curated
"First show", First Night Celebration of the Arts,
Robson Square Media Centre, Vancouver
- 1986 "Images and Objects", Expo Media centre, Vancouver,
- 1984 Robson Square Media Centre, Vancouver
Remy Martin Juried Exhibition, Robson Square Media Centre, Vancouver
"The Warehouse Show", Vancouver
"Teachers Art Exhibition", Robson Square Media Centre, Vancouver
"Images and Objects", Robson Square Media Centre (Juried Group Show)
- 1982 Robson Square Media Centre, Vancouver
- 1981 Concourse Gallery (Emily Carr College of Art and Design)
S.U.B. Gallery, University of British Columbia, (Juried Exhibition of Paintings), Vancouver
- 1976 Exposition Galleries, Vancouver
- 1969 Exposition Galleries, Vancouver

Collections

Wajax Ltd

Polygon Interior Design

BAU - XI GALLERY

Oscelot Energy
Newport Petroleum
Bank of Nova Scotia
Citibank
Blue Lane Enterprises
Air Canada
Chamber of Commerce (Victoria)
Dick Irwin G.M. (Vancouver)
D.T. Dental Trading (Germany)
First City (Toronto)
Fourth Street Rose Restaurant (Calgary)

The International Hotel (Calgary)
Chateau Whistler Resort
Maritime Life (Vancouver)
Pan Pacific Hotel, Paintings in 22 suites (Vancouver)
Plaza Hotels (Vancouver)
Raintree Restaurant (Vancouver)
Syncor Business Environments (Vancouver)
External Affairs, Ottawa
Numerous works in private collections
internationally

Commissions

Coast Resort at Big White
Coast Plaza Suite Hotel (Vancouver)
Delta Hotel (Whistler)

Harbourfront Hotel (Victoria)
Oxford Properties
Waterfront Hotel

Reviews

Dick Maclean's Guide 'B.C.Edition', ('Old Vancouver' painting on cover), February 1972.
Gilbert, Liz. "Rare Insight and Vision", The West Ender, April 1986.
Godley, Elizabeth. The Vancouver Sun, March 27 1987.
Higgs, Melanie. "Making Art of the 'Family Linen'", The Vancouver Western News, November 24, 1984.
Johnson, Eve. The Vancouver Sun, April 12, 1986.
Mertens, Susan. "The Artist as a Historian", The Vancouver Province, February 9, 1984.
Perry, Art. "O'Hara Takes Flight", The Vancouver Sun, August 30, 1989.
Templeman-Kluit, Anne. The Vancouver Sun, October 6, 1983.
Taylor, Lisa. "Work has distinctive touch", The Vancouver Sun, August 31, 1989.
Appelbe, Alison. "O'Hara paints in exotic style", The Vancouver Courier, September 6, 1989.

Book Mentions

2000 Westbridge, Anthony R. and Diana L. Bodnar, *The Collector's Dictionary of Canadian Artists at Auction*, p 622
1996 Gold, Melanie, *Great Work - An Overview of Contemporary British Columbia Artists*, p. 108
1990 Ed Varney, *Artropolis 90: Lineages & Linkages*, p. 144
1987 Hurtig, Annette, et al, *Artropolis: Exhibition of Contemporary British Columbia Art*, p. 132
1974 MacDonald, Colin, S., *A Dictionary of Canadian Artists (8 Volumes)*, p. 3667