

MICHAEL KOHN GALLERY

MARTHA ALF

Born 1930, Berkeley, California
Died 2019, Santa Monica, California

EDUCATION

1970 MFA, Painting, University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
1963 MA, Art, San Diego State University. San Diego, CA
1952 BA, Psychology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 *OPPOSITES AND CONTRADICTIONS*, Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2012 *Martha Alf RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT*, Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center,
Santa Monica, CA
SELECTIONS, Emeritus College Santa Monica, Santa Monica, CA
2011 *CYLINDERS*, Tom Jancar Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Chris Winfield Gallery, Carmel, CA
2004 *NOT-SO STILL LIFE*, Pasadena Museum of Art, Pasadena, CA
BIRD SPACE, A Post-Audubon Artists Aviary, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans,
LA
2003 *NOT SO STILL LIFE*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
MARTHA ALF, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2002 *IDENTITY*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2001 *RETROSPECTIVE*, The New Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA
2000 *TRANSFORMATION 40-YEAR SURVEY*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1999 *BIRDLAND*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1998 *THINK DRAWING*, Newspace, Los Angeles, CA
1997 *BETWEEN NEW YORK AND MIAMI*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1996 *DRAWING REVISITED*, Newspace Gallery, CA
1995 *CLOSELY VALUED*, Newspace Gallery, CA
1994 *DOUBLE EDGE*, Newspace Gallery, CA
1993 *INTERNAL INTERFACE – 25 YEARS SURVEY*, Mount San Antonio College, Walnut, CA
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1992 *RED LIGHT*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
RECENT DRAWINGS, Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA
1991 *RED*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
SURVEY–1965–1990, Art Institute of Southern California, 871 Fine Arts, San Francisco,
CA
1990 Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1988 Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

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- 1987 Acme Art, San Francisco, CA
1986 Tortue Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
PASTELS AND PENCIL DRAWINGS, Henry Gardiner, Fine Art, Palm Beach, FL
1985 Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1984 *MARTHA ALF RETROSPECTIVE*, curated by Josine Ianco-Starrels, Los Angeles
Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA: Traveled to San Francisco Art Institute
1983 Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery, curated by Nancy Ceasar, Cowell College, University of
Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA
1982 Dorothy Rosenthal Galler, Chicago, IL
Thomas Babeor Gallery, La Jolla, CA
1981 Signet Arts Gallery, St. Louis, MO,
Montgomery Art Gallery, Pomona College, Claremont, CA, catalog essay by D. Rubin
1980 Peppers Art Gallery, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA, catalogue essay by David
Rubin, The Fort Worth Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX
Susan Caldwell Gallery, New York, NY
1977 John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA
1975 Jack Glenn Gallery, Newport Beach, CA
1973 Green Mountain Gallery, New York, NY
1972 Gallery 707, Los Angeles, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 L.A. WOMEN, Phillips Los Angeles, CA
2017 *VENICE: NOW AND THEN*, The Mike Kelley Gallery at Beyond Baroque Literary Art
Center, Venice, CA
2001 *STILL LIFE EXPRESSIONS*, curated by LaMonte Westmoreland, California State
University, Los Angeles, CA
2000 *12 DIVAS: SELECTED SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTISTS AS MENTORS AND HEROES*,
Molly Barnes Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
1999 *OPENING THE DOOR: WOMEN IN ART*, Bakersfield Museum of Art, Bakersfield, CA
Frankfurt Art Fair, Frankfurt, Germany
MATERIAL ISSUES: Recent Gifts from the Collection of Katherine and James Gentry,
San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
1997 *WOMEN WHO SHOOT*, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
NEWSPACE IN LAS VEGAS, Contemporary Arts Collective, Las Vegas, NV
Gramercy International Art Fair at the Chateau Marmont, Newspace Gallery,
Hollywood, CA
1996 *48th Annual Academy Purchase Exhibition*, American Academy of Arts and Letters,
New York, NY
REALISM, van de Griff Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
Third Annual Gramercy International Art Fair at the Chateau Marmont, Newspace
Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
RED PAINTING, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
USEFUL THINGS, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

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- 1995 Second Annual International Contemporary Art Fair at the Chateau Marmont, Hollywood, CA
- 1994 *GENERATION OF MENTORS*, curated by Josine Janco Starrels and Helen A. Lewis, The Woman's Museum, Washington, D.C., Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Fresno, CA. (catalog)
Mount St. Mary's College, Jose Drudis-Biada Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1995 *DRAWINGS*, curated by Dan Connally, College of Creative Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA
- 1993 *THE ELEGANT, THE IRREVERENT AND THE OBSESSIVE: DRAWING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA*, Main Art Gallery, California State University Fullerton, Fullerton, CA and Dorothy Goldeen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1992 *THE LAST PICTURE SHOW: AN EVOLUTION OF WORKS BY SELECTED LOS ANGELES ARTISTS*, Gallery at the Plaza, Los Angeles, CA
GREATEST HITS, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1991 *STILL LIFE: PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS*, Tasticheff Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1990 *STAMENS & PISTILS: INTERPRETING THE FLOWER 1790-1990*, Louis Stern Galleries, Beverly Hills, CA
RADIANT FRUIT: ICONIC STILL LIFE, Trabia Gallery, New York, NY
- 1989 *INSIDE THE L.A. ARTIST*, Boritzer/Gray Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
WORKS ON PAPER, Jan Baum Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
ORANGE COUNTY COLLECTS, Muckenthaler Cultural Center, Fullerton, CA
300 YEARS OF STILL LIFE, Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1988 *GROUP SHOW*, Gallery 30, San Mateo, CA
LOS ANGELES ORGANIC ABSTRACTION, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 1987 *MARTHA ALF / HELEN LUNDEBERG, TWO VIEWS: 1970-1987*, organized by Judy Barnes, Baker and Maudette Ball, Palos Verdes Art Center, Palos Verdes, CA
LOS ANGELES ARTISTS, curated by Lee Mullican, Ruthven Gallery, Lancaster, OH
DRAWING: THE NEW TRADITION, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL
- 1986 *THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ARTIST: SELECTED WORKS BY 14 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTISTS*, curated by Ruth Weisberg, Malone Art Gallery, Loyola University, Los Angeles, CA
IN THE ADVENT OF CHANGE, (women who were working in California after WWII and prior to the women's movement), curated by Joyce Aiken, Fresno Art Center and Museum, Fresno, CA
PASADENA COLLECTS: THE ART OF OUR TIME, curated by Melinda Wortz, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA, initiated and sponsored by the Pasadena Art Alliance
- 1985 *PURCHASE EXHIBITION*, American Academy and Institute of Art and Letters, New York, NY
BLACK AND WHITE DRAWINGS FROM THE DAVID NELLIS COLLECTION, curated by Daniel Duke, California State University, Los Angeles, Fine Arts Gallery; traveled to Del E. Webb Library, Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA
TENTH ANNIVERSARY, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
SOURCES OF LIGHT: CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LUMINISM, Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle; curated by Harvey West and Chris Bruce

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- 1984 *PASTELS: MARTHA ALF, DAN McCLEARY*, Newspace, Los Angeles, CA
THERE IS NO FINISH LINE, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
YOU GOTTA HAVE ART!, Laguna Beach Museum of Art, Laguna Beach, CA
Ceci N'Est Pas Le Surrealism: California: Idioms of Surrealism, curated by Marie De Alcuaz Fisher Gallery, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, traveled to: California State College, Pratt Institute Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 1983 *FROM AVERY TO ZURBURAN: A NEW VIEW OF THE PERMANENT COLLECTION*, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA
PHOTOGRAPHIC VISIONS, six-person exhibition with Chuck Close, Robert Cumming, David Hockney, Robert Rauschenberg, and Ed Ruscha, Los Angeles Center for Photographic Studies, Los Angeles, CA
- 1982 *CONTEMPORARY CALIFORNIA ARTISTS*, two-person exhibition with sculptor Gwynn Murill, curated by David S. Rubin, Laguna Beach Museum of Art, Laguna Beach, CA; catalog with essay by David Rubin
LAVA '82: AN ARTIST'S LIVING SPACE, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Los Angeles, CA
THE MICHAEL AND DOROTHY BLANKFORT COLLECTION, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
THIRTY-FIVE LOS ANGELES ARTISTS, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; curated by Noriko Fujinami; first shown at City Museum, Nagoya, Japan
DRAWINGS BY PAINTERS, curated by Richard Armstrong, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA; traveled to: Mandeville Art Gallery, University of California, San Diego; Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA
- 1981 *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTISTS: 1940 - 1980*, Laguna Beach Museum of Art, Laguna Beach, CA
DECADE; LOS ANGELES PAINTING IN THE SEVENTIES, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
- 1980 *CONTEMPORARY DRAWINGS BY EIGHTEEN WEST COAST ARTISTS*, Henry Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
FIFTY CONTEMPORARY WORKS OF ART, Spring 1980 and 1990, The Vice President's House, Washington, DC. Selected by the San Francisco Museum of Art and Joan Mondale
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DRAWINGS, Joseloff Gallery, University of Hartford, Hartford, CT
- 1979 *ITALIAN DRAWINGS AND PRINTS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION AND RECENT AQUISITIONS*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
NEWSPACE IN SAN DIEGO, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- 1978 *BIG SAN DIEGO SHOW*, curated by Dennis Komac, Newspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS, Security Pacific Bank, Security Pacific Plaza, Los Angeles, CA
NEW REALISM: 8 CALIFORNIA PAINTERS, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
- 1977 *CHRISTMAS SHOW*, Rosa Esman Gallery, NY
SHADES OF GRAY, curated by Audrey Sanders, Malone Art Gallery, Loyola University, Los Angeles, CA; catalog essay by Merle Schippers
INVITATIONAL AMERICAN DRAWING EXHIBITION, San Diego Museum of Art, San

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Diego, CA

CALIFORNIA DRAWINGS, SUMMER, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

STILL AND NOT SO STILL LIVES, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

100+ CURRENT DIRECTIONS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ART, Institute of

Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

1976 *ARTISTS '76 -A CELEBRATION*, Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio, TX

1975 *4x8 + 4x4*, Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA

CURRENT CONCERNS II, Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

WHITNEY BIENNIAL, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, NY

1972 *21 ARTISTS: INVISIBLE/VISIBLE*, Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA; traveled to Mills College, Oakland, CA

COLLECTIONS

Aaron Spelling Productions, Los Angeles, CA

AT&T Corporation, New York, NY

Atlantic Richfield (ARCO), Los Angeles, CA

Boston Metromedia Inc, Los Angeles, CA

Boston Welton Beckett and Associates, Los Angeles, CA

Capitol Research, Los Angeles, CA

Eli Broad Collection, Santa Monica, CA

Fresno Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA

Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI

Greenville County Museum of Art, Greenville, SC

Greenville Israel Museum of Art, Jerusalem, Israel

Lawrence Ticor Insurance, University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles McCrory Corporation, New York, NY

Marcus and Millichap, Palo Alto, CA

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Los Angeles, CA

Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, Kansas City, KS

Fresno Art Center and Museum, Fresno, CA

Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA

O'Melveny and Myers, Los Angeles, CA

Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ

Princess-Sitmar Cruise Lines, Los Angeles, CA

River Forest Bank, Chicago, IL

San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA

San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA

Santa Barbara Vesti Corporation, Santa Barbara, CA

Security Pacific Bank, Los Angeles, CA

Southland Corporation, Dallas, TX

Spencer Museum of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021 Rubin, David S. "Martha Alf," Visual Art Source, March 24
- 2019 "Martha Joanne Alf—1930-2019, Obituary" *Los Angeles Times*
- 2017 Rubin, David S., "Martha Alf Pointed Me to the Light", Visual Art Source, March 29
- 2013 "North American Women Artists of the Twentieth Century", Jules and Nancy Heller, *Taylor and Francis*
- 2012 "Martha Alf Exhibit To Go On Display at Santa Monica College, October 30", *SM Mirror*
- 2010 Rubin, David S. "Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art Since the 1960s", *San Antonio Museum of Art and the MIT Press*, p. 24.
- 2004 Rubin, David S. "Birdspace: A Post-Audubon Artists Aviary", *Contemporary Art Center New Orleans*, p. 14.
- 2003 Landauer, Susan. "The Not-So-Still Life: A Century of California Painting and Sculpture", *University of California Press*
- 1996 Pagel, David. "Pears Are Centerpiece of Martha Alf's Show", *Los Angeles Times*, March 14.
- 1993 Kapitanoff, Nancy. "Alf's Work Bears Fruit, and It's Not Just Pears", *Los Angeles Times*, April 11.
- 1984 Muchnic, Suzanne. "Martha Alf: Retrospective and Exhibition", *Felicie Inc*, March 1.
- 1978 Rubin, David S. "Martha Alf", *Arts Magazine*, LVIII/1, September, p. 12.