



GEMINI G.E.L. AT JONI MOISANT WEYL

Vija Celmins

Born:

Riga, Latvia, 1938

Vija Celmins was born in Riga, Latvia in 1938. Celmins immigrated to the United States with her family when she was ten years old, settling in Indiana. She received a BFA from the John Herron Institute in Indianapolis, and later earned her MFA in painting from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Celmins initially explored the abstract, gestural style she had developed as an undergraduate but soon shifted to figuration, working from objects in her immediate environment and using a palette of grays. Due to the everyday nature of her subjects, she was associated for some time with pop art. In 1967 Celmins began working in graphite from her own photographs and from satellite photographs of the lunar surface. Her art dramatically changed from figure/ground situation to one that explored the nature of the physical/metaphysical presence, as well as the spatial implications of drawing. The ocean became her primary visual source and, in time, Celmins' inspiration included the Mohave Desert, which she has frequently photographed, and, again, the realm of the galaxies.

Celmins works in painting and sculpture and has made lithographs at Tamarind and Cirrus Editions prior to her etching collaborations at Gemini. In 1975 she was commissioned by the Department of the Interior to work in Alaska on a project for the bicentennial exhibition *America 1976*. In 1980 the Newport Harbor Art Museum organized an exhibition of her work that traveled to several institutions. Since 1981 she has lived and worked in New York.



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Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1965 Dickson Art Center, University of California, Los Angeles. (M.F.A. exhibition)
- 1966 David Stuart Galleries, Los Angeles.
- 1969 Riko Mizuno Gallery, Los Angeles.
- 1973 Riko Mizuno Gallery, Los Angeles.
Vija Celmins Drawings, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- 1975 Felicity Samuel Gallery, London.
Complete Lithographic Works, 1970-1975 Broxton Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1976 *Matrix 19* Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT.
- 1978 Security Pacific National Bank, Los Angeles.
- 1979 *Vija Celmins: A Survey Exhibition*, organized by Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA.
Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA. Traveled to Arts Club of Chicago; Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, New York; and Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1983 David McKee Gallery, New York.
- 1988 David McKee Gallery, New York.
- 1990 *Vija Celmins: Drawings and Prints*, Pence Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1992 McKee Gallery, New York
Vija Celmins, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
Traveled to Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.
- 1993 *Vija Celmins-Printed Matter*, University Gallery, Fine Arts Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
Vija Celmins, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1994 *Vija Celmins-Prints, 1970-1992*, Cirrus, Los Angeles, CA
- 1995 *Vija Celmins* Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris
- 1996 McKee Gallery, New York
- 1996-97 *Vija Celmins: Works 1964-1996*, organized by and exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art-London, traveled to the Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland, and Museum fur Moderne kunst, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 1999 *Vija Celmins*, Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London, England

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 1966 *1966 All Media All California Exhibition*, San Diego Art Guild at San Diego Fine Arts Gallery.
Four Painter, California State College, Hayward.
Thirteen Views of the West, Philadelphia Arts Council, Philadelphia Museum of Art.
- 1967 *N.Y. & L.A. Drawings of the 60's*, University of Colorado, Boulder. Traveled to University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.
- 1968 *Faculty '68*, University of California, Irvine. Catalogue with text by Fidel A. Danieli.
NOW, 40 California Painters, Tampa Bay Art Center, Florida. Catalogue.
- 1969 *Summer Show*, David Stuart Galleries, Los Angeles.
Contemporary American Drawings, Fort Worth Museum, Texas.



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- 1970 *The Drawing Society: California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah*, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA.
Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Sculpture, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
Riko Mizuno Gallery, Los Angeles.
- 1970-71 *Paperworks*, Museum of Modern Art, Art Lending Service, New York.
- 1971 *Continuing Surrealism*, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, CA.
Earth, Animal, Vegetable and Mineral, La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, CA
Twenty-four Young Los Angeles Artists, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA.
Tamarind: A Renaissance of Lithography, International Exhibitions Foundation, Washington, D.C.
A Loan exhibition from the Tamarind Lithography Workshops. Traveled nationally, 1971-76.
- 1972 *California Prints*, Museum of Modern Art, New York.
A Survey of West Coast Art from the Permanent Collection and Loan Collections, Pasadena Art Museum, CA.
L.A., San Francisco Art Institute.
Eighteenth National Print Exhibition, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York. Traveled to California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco.
The Topography of Nature: The Microcosm and Macrocosm, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
Drawing, Janie C. Lee Gallery, Dallas.
- 1973 *Ten Years of Contemporary Art Council Acquisitions*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
American Drawings 1963-1973, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
Prints from the Permanent Collection, Pasadena Museum of Modern Art, CA.
Separate Realities, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Park. Catalogue.
Young American Artists-Drawings and Graphics (sic), Sweden
- 1974 *Seventy-First American Exhibition*, Art Institute of Chicago.
Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture, 1974, Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois
Earth, Sea and Sky, University of California, Riverside.
Drawings, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles.
Drawings, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, New York. Catalogue with text by Nancy Hoffman.
- 1975 *A Drawing Show*, Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, California.
Recent Drawings, organized by American Federation of the Arts. Huntsville Museum of Art, Alabama. Traveled to Princeton University, New Jersey; Cummer Gallery of Art, Jacksonville, Florida; and State University of New York, Stony Brook.
Cirrus Editions Ltd. Prints, Contemporary Graphics Center, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California.
- 1976 *America 1976*, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. A Bicentennial exhibition sponsored by United States Department of the Interior. Traveled to Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford; Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Minneapolis Institute of Arts; Milwaukee Art Center; Fort Worth Art Museum, Texas; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York.
The Lyon Collection: Modern and Contemporary Works on Paper, University Art Gallery, California State University, Long Beach.
- 1977 *American Artists: A New Decade*, Detroit Institute of Arts, Michigan. Traveled to Fort Worth Art Museum, Texas; and Grand Rapids Art Museum, Michigan.
Painting and Sculpture in California: The Modern Era, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.



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- 1977 Traveled to National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
30 years of American Printmaking, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York.
Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
The Early Sixties at UCLA, Frederick S. Wight Art Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1978 *Three Generations: Studies in Collage* Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
Works on Paper, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1979 *The Decade in Review: Selections from the 1970's*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.
- 1981 *Contemporary American Realism*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.
The Contemporary American Landscape, Hirsch & Adler Contemporaries, New York.
The Image of the House in Contemporary Works on Paper, Hayden Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- 1982 *Great Big Drawings*, Hayden Gallery, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge.
- 1982-83 *Drawings by Painters*, Long Beach Museum of Art, CA. Traveled to Oakland Museum, CA. 1983
The American Artist As Printmaker: 23rd National Print Exhibition, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY.
Drawings by Painters, Long Beach Museum of Art, CA; The Oakland Museum, CA
- 1983-84 *American Still Life, 1945-1983*, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, Texas. Traveled to
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio; Neuberger Museum, State
University of New York, Purchase; and Portland Art Museum, Oregon.
Hassam and Speicher Fund Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters,
New York.
- 1984 *American Women Artists Part I: 20th Century Pioneers*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York.
Automobile and Culture, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA.
Landscapes, Matthews Hamilton Gallery, Philadelphia.
Gemini G.E.L.: Art and Collaboration, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1985 *Focus on Realism: Selections from the Collection of Glenn C. Janss*, Boise Gallery of Art, Idaho.
Traveled to San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.
- 1986 *Pasadena Collects*, Pasadena Art Museum, CA.
Public and Private: American Prints Today, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, New York.
Individuals: A Selected History of Contemporary Art, 1945-1986, Museum of Contemporary Art, L.A.
- 1987 *Collaborative American Printmaking from Whistler to the Present*, Joe and Emily Lowe Art Gallery,
Syracuse, New York.
A Graphic Muse: Prints by Contemporary American Women, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South
Hadley, MA.
- 1988 *Welcome Back: Works by Contemporary Artists from Indiana*, Herron School of Art Gallery, Indianapolis.
Of Another Nature, Loughelton Gallery, New York
- 1989 *Making Their Mark: Women Artists Move into the Mainstream*, Cincinnati Art Museum. Traveled to New
Orleans Museum of Art; Denver Art Museum; and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,
Philadelphia. Catalogue with essays by Judith Stein and Ann-Sargent Wooster.
L.A. Pop in the Sixties, Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, CA. Traveled to Henry Art
Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle; Palm Springs Desert Museum, CA; Neuberger
Museum, State University of New York, Purchase; and Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona.
Boundaries: A tradition of Drawing in Herron School of Art, Herron School of Art Gallery, Indiana
University, Indianapolis.
Multiples, Marc Richards Gallery, Los Angeles.



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- 1989 *Contemporary Prints and Drawings from the Mellon Bank Collection*, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania.
The 1980's: Prints from the Collection of Joshua P. Smith, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Nocturnal visions in Contemporary Painting, Whitney Museum of American Art at Equitable Center, New York.
The 1980's: Prints from the Collection of Joshua P. Smith, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.
- 1990 *The Persistence of Vision*, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York.
Home, Asher-Faure Gallery, Los Angeles. Catalogue.
- 1991 *The Times, The Chronicle and The Observer*, Kent Fine Art, New York.
The Contemporary Drawing: Existence, Passage and Dream, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.
A Bestiary, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.
Women Artists, Miramar Gallery, Sarasota, Florida.
Art for the Nation: Gifts in Honor of the 50th Anniversary of the National Gallery of Art, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
- 1991 *For 25 Years: Gemini G.E.L.*, Museum of Modern Art, New York.
- 1992 *Selections from the Broida Collection*, Palm Beach Community College Museum of Art, Florida.
44th Annual Academy-Institute Purchase Exhibition, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York.
Contemporary Icons: From the Sublime to the Fetishistic, Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery at Hunter College, New York.
- 1993 *Les Environs*, Pamela Auchincloss Gallery, New York.
About Nature, Cleveland for Contemporary Art, Ohio.
Azur, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris.
Landscape, Myth vs. Reality, Barbara Mathes Gallery, New York.
On Paper, Asher Foure Gallery, Los Angeles, CA.
Drawings, 30th Anniversary Exhibition for the Foundation for the Performance Arts, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York.
- 1994 *Contemporary Master Prints*, Fletcher/Priest Gallery, Worcester, MA.
Love in the Ruins: Art and Inspiration of L.A. Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, CA.
The World of Tomorrow, Thomas Solomon's Garage, Los Angeles, CA.
Facts and Figures: Selections from the Lannan Foundation Collection, Lannan Foundation, Los Angeles, CA.
Fine Lines, Anthony Slayter-Ralph, Santa Barbara, CA.
Institute of Cultural Anxiety, Institute of Contemporary Art, London, England.
- 1995 *About Place: Recent Art of the Americas*, Art Institute of Chicago, IL.
Contemporary Drawing: Exploring the Territory, Curated by Mark Rosenthal, Aspen Art Museum, Colorado.
American Academy Invitational Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture, American Academy of Arts and Letters, NY.
- 1996 *Group Exhibition*, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, San Francisco CA
About Photography, Tokyo Metroplotan Museum of Photography, Japan.
Views From Abroad: European Perspectives on American Art 2, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.
- 1997 *Birth of the Cool: American Painting*, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany, Travels to Kunsthaus Zurich, Switzerland.



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- 1997 *Scene of the Crime*. The Arm and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA.
Sunshine & Noir: Art in L.A. 1960-1997, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark, Travels to Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany, Hayward Gallery, London, England, Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy, The Arm and Hammer Museum, Los Angeles CA.
Views from Abroad: European Perspectives on American Art 2, Museum fur Modern Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.
Whitney Biennial 1997, Whitney Museum of Art, NY.
Heaven: Public View, Private View, P.S. 1 New York.
Spiders and Webs, Barbara Krakow Gallery, Boston, MA.
The Collection of the Fondation Cartie pour l'Art Contemporain, the Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris.
- 1998 *Edward R. Broida Collection*, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL.
Terra Incognita, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen, Germany, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris. *Photo Image; Printmaking 60s to 90s*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. *Speed*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, England. *Sea Change*, The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY. C, Elizabeth Cherry Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ.
- 1999 *Powder*, Aspen Art Museum, CO.
Flashes: Contemporary Trends, The Cartier Collection, The Exhibition Center of the Centro Cultural de Belem.
Examining Pictures: Exhibiting Paintings, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, England.