

Sir Terry Frost (RA)



Terry Frost (1915-2003) was a British abstract artist, who was elected as a Royal Academician and appointed as as Fine Arts Lecturer at Reading University. Despite starting as a late artist at 30, his works have been studied and is seen to be one of the most recognised abstract artists in Britain.

Frost was first exposed to art during his stay as a war prisoner in Crete whilst serving in the Army, where he meets fellow inmate and British artist Adrian Health, who tutored him in painting and encouraged him to become an artist. His arts journey started since then; after being awarded NDD at Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, his first solo exhibition took place in Leicester Galleries in 1952. Later in 1992, Frost was elected as a Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts. He has had various solo and group exhibitions globally spanning over five decades in renowned museums including Tate Gallery, Beaux Arts, MoMa and Royal Academy of Arts.

1915 Born 13 October, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

1930 After attending local schools, begins work, first in a cycle shop, then at a radio factory, bakery, aircraft factory and electrical component wholesaler in Birmingham

1939-41 Called up as a member of the Army Reserve and serves in Palestine and France 1941-45

1941-45 Transfers to the Commandos, serves in the Middle East and is taken prisoner in Crete. POW until April 1945, during which time he meets Adrian Heath who gives him drawing lessons and encourages him to paint. His first solo exhibition is held in his home town, but in his absence

- 1945 After his release, marries Kathleen Clarke in August and returns to wholesaling work in Birmingham, while attending art classes in the evening
- 1946 Study at Leonard Fuller's St Ives School of Painting. Becomes friends with Peter Lanyon, Sven Berlin and also Leonard Richmond, who teaches him to paint landscapes in oil 'that might sell'
- 1947 Meets Ben Nicholson, with whom he corresponds. In the autumn starts his studies at the Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, taught by Coldstream, Pasmore and Kenneth Martin, inter alios.
- 1948 Introduces Pasmore to Ben Nicholson. Returns each summer to St Ives to work at the Sunset Bar, and to paint and exhibit with the St Ives Society of Artists. Begins to experiment with abstraction
- 1949 Awarded NDD and continues to study pottery and lithography unofficially at Camberwell
- 1950 Returns to live in St Ives, taking a studio next to Ben Nicholson and working part-time for, and occasionally exhibiting with, Lanyon at Robin Nances's, the furniture-maker
- 1951 Starts to work as an assistant to Barbara Hepworth (together with John Wells and Denis Mitchell) while studying for his 'Intermediate' at Penzance School of Art. Meets Roger Hilton. Elected a member of the Penwith Society. E.C. (Peter) Gregory buys his important oil painting 'Walk along the quay' (now Coll. Adrian Heath, on loan to Sheffield City Art Galleries). Meets Sam Francis for the first time, then exhibits at the ICA in London
- 1952 Begins to teach life drawing at Bath Academy of Art at Corsham, while also teaching anatomy and still-life drawing part-time at Willesden School of Art, London. Stays with Adrian Heath in London during term-time
- 1953 E.C. Gregory purchases the artist's 'Blue movement' (1952) for the CAS (illustrated in its Annual Report for 1952-53), and the British Council makes its first purchase (a watercolour) from the artist
- 1954 E.C. Gregory offers Frost the two-year Fellowship in Painting which he was funding at Leeds University. Returns to St Ives for the summers while at Leeds
- 1955 Teaches part-time on Harry Thubron's Basic Design Course at Leeds School of Art. First visit to Paris, accompanied by Roger Hilton, who also takes him to visit Sam Francis and Soulages in their studios, and to Noguchi's sculpture garden for UNESCO
- 1956 Returns to live and paint full-time in St Ives. Shortly thereafter becomes acquainted with the American critic Clement Greenberg, and later with the dealer Martha Jackson and with Mark Rothko, who all visit St Ives towards the end of the decade
- 1959 The Tate Gallery purchases its first painting by the artist, from E.C. Gregory's collection. (It has since purchased more paintings, notably in the 1970s)
- 1960 First visit to the USA including three weeks in New York and visits several artists' studios
- 1963 Moves to Banbury and begins part-time teaching at Coventry School of Art
- 1964 Visiting Lecturer in Fine Art at Reading University. Summer teaching at San José, California, in the autumn takes up a Fellowship in Painting at Newcastle University
- 1965 Appointed Lecturer in Fine Art at Reading University. Awarded a Non-purchase Prize at the 5th John Moores Exhibition, Liverpool
- 1967 Teaches at Voss Summer School, Norway
- 1969 Awarded a Prize at the Arts Council of NI Open Painting exhibition, Belfast
- 1970 Promoted to Reader in Fine Art at Reading University

- 1973 Member of the Selection Jury for the First British International Drawing Biennale, organised by Teesside BC at Middleborough
- 1974 Moves to live and work in Newlyn, Cornwall
- 1975 Summer teaching at Banff, Canada
- 1976 Summer teaching at the University of Western Ontario, Canada
- 1977 Appointed Professor of Painting at Reading University. Teaches at the Summer School, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 1980 Teaches at the Summer Academy, Umea, Sweden
- 1981 Retires from Reading University, and made Professor Emeritus. Visits Russia for the first time to see the early work of Kandinsky and Matisse
- 1992 Elected a Royal Academician
- 1998 Knighted
- 2003 Dies September 1

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2015-16 Tate St Ives: Newlyn Art Gallery and The Exchange
- 2015 Leeds Art Gallery
Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum
Centenary Exhibition, Beaux Arts, London
- 2012 *Between Sun and Moon*, forward by Mel Gooding, Beaux Arts, London
- 2010 *Terry Frost: A Lover of Life*, Beaux Arts, London
- 2009 *Works on Paper from the Artist's Studio*, Belgrave Gallery, St Ives
Five Decades of Terry Frost (Prints), Stoneman Graphics Gallery, Penzance
- 2008 *The Paintings of Sir Terry Frost*, Reading Museum
Beaux Arts, London
- 2007 Beaux Arts, London
- 2003 *Painting not Painting*, Tate St Ives
Beaux Arts, London
- 2002 Belgrave Gallery, London
Strand Gallery, Aldeburgh

- Badcocks Gallery, Newlyn
Russell Cotes Museum, Bournemouth
- 2001 Mead Gallery, Warwick University
Galleria Multigraphic, Venice
Maison des Arts, Colle sur Loup, France
- 2000 *Terry Frost: Six Decades*, Royal Academy
Beaux Arts, London
- 1999 Arts Council Spotlight, touring exhibition
- 1998 British Council, New York
- 1997 Belgrave Gallery, St Ives
- 1995 McGeary Gallery, Brussels
Newlyn Art Gallery
- 1994 Adelson Gallery, New York
- 1993 Austin Desmond Fine Art
Tate Gallery St Ives
- 1989 Mayor Gallery
Belgrave Gallery
- 1986 University of Reading and Newlyn Art Gallery, and tour to Plymouth
- 1982 Gloria Gallery, Nicosia
- 1980 New Art Centre
- 1976 Arts Council and South West Arts Retrospective Tour
Serpentine Gallery
- 1971 Institute of Contemporary Arts
- 1970 Plymouth City Art Gallery (also 1986)
- 1969 Museum of Modern Art, Oxford
- 1964 Galerie Charles Lienhard, Zurich
Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne

- 1961 Waddington Galleries (also 1963, 1966, 1969, 1971, 1974, 1978)
- 1960 Bertha Schaeffer Gallery, New York
- 1952 Leicester Galleries (also 1956, 1958)
- 1944 Leamington Spa Library

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *FOUR BRITISH GIANTS OF MODERNISM: Frost, Heron, Lanyon, Scott* Beaux Arts, London
- 2018 *Inheritance of Colour*, Beaux Arts, London
- 2016 *Summer Exhibition*, Beaux Arts, London
- 2014 *Summer Exhibition*, Beaux Arts, London
- 2013 *Summer Exhibition*, Beaux Arts, London
- 2011 *Summer Exhibition*, Beaux Arts, London
- 2009 *A Select Exhibition from the Arts Council Collection*, York Art Gallery, then touring
- 2007 *Spotlight on St Ives*, touring Denbigh, Lancaster, Cheltenham, Newcastle and Scarborough
- 2006 *Irving, Hoyland, Frost*, Château de Sours, France
- 2004 *RA Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Art, London
- 2003 *Painting Not Painting*, Tate St Ives
- 2002 *Square Root*, Sarah Myerscough Fine Art, London
In Print, Contemporary British Art from the Paragon Press, touring worldwide
Summer 2002, Beaux Arts, London
- 2000 *Summer 2000*, Beaux Arts, London
- 1995 *British Abstract Painting*, Flowers East
McGreary Gallery, Brussels
Newlyn Art Gallery

- 1994 *Here and Now*, Serpentine Gallery
- 1993 *RA Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Art, London
- 1989 *The Presence of Painting*, South Bank Centre
- 1986 *Looking West*, Newlyn Art Gallery and the Royal College of Art
- 1985 *St Ives 1939-1964*, Tate Gallery
- 1984 *Landscape in Britain*, Arts Council, Hayward Gallery
English Contrasts, Art Curial, Paris
Frost, Paraskos, Charalambides, Gloria Gallery, Nicosia
- 1980 *Hayward Annual*, Arts Council, Hayward Gallery
Pictures for an Exhibition, Whitechapel Gallery
- 1977 *British Painting 1952-1977*, Royal Academy of Art
Pier Art Gallery exhibition, Tate Gallery
Cyprus Summer School staff exhibition, Gallery Zygos, Nicosia
- 1974 *British Painting, 1974*, Arts Council, Hayward Gallery
- 1970 *British Painting, 1960-1970*, National Gallery of Art, Washington
- 1969 *John Moores Liverpool 7*, Walker Art Gallery
- 1968 *British Art Today*, Hamburg Kunstverein
- 1967 *Recent British Painting*, Stuyvesant Collection exhibition, Tate Gallery
- 1966 *Blow, Frink and Frost*, Prestons Art Gallery, Bolton
3rd Open Painting Exhibition, Ulster Museum, Belfast
- 1965 *John Moores Liverpool 5*, Walker Art Gallery
Frost, Heron, Hilton, Wynter, Waddington Galleries
Peter Stuyvesant Foundation collection purchases, Whitechapel Gallery
- 1964 *Contemporary British Painting and Sculpture*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo
1954-1964: Painting and Sculpture of a Decade, Gulbenkian Foundation Collection, Tate Gallery
New Painting, 1961-64, Arts Council Tour
- 1963 *British Painting in the Sixties*, CAS, Tate and Whitechapel Galleries
John Moores Liverpool 4, Walker Art Gallery

- 1962 *Kompass II*, Stedelijk van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven
British Art of the 20th Century, Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon and tour
British Art Today, San Francisco Museum of Art and tour
- 1961 *The 21st International Watercolour Exhibition*, Brooklyn Museum, New York
John Moores Liverpool 3, Walker Art Gallery
- 1960 *British Painting 1720-1960*, British Council tour to Russia
- 1959 *Recent paintings by 7 British Artists*, British Council tour to Australia
John Moores Liverpool 2, Walker Art Gallery
The Developing Process, ICA
- 1958 *Pittsburgh Bicentennial*, Carnegie Institute (also 1959, 1961)
Guggenheim International, New York (also 1959)
Gregory Fellowship Exhibition, Bradford City Art Gallery
- 1957 *Statements*, ICA
British Art, Galerie Creuze, Paris
Lissone International Painting Prize
Tokyo International
New Trends in British Art, Rome, New York
John Moores Liverpool 1, Walker Art Gallery
- 1956 *Recent Abstract Painting*, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester
Critics' Choice (Herbert Read), Arthur Tooth & Sons
- 1955 *50 Years of British Art*, British Council Tour
- 1954 *Abstract, Cubist, Formalist, Surrealist*, Redfern Gallery
- 1953 *Space in Colour*, Hanover Gallery
- 1952 *CAS Exhibition*, The Tate Gallery
British Abstract Art, Galerie de France, Paris
- 1951 *Danish, British and American Abstract Art*, Riverside Museum, New York
Abstract Art, Gimpel Fils

Public / Corporate Collections

Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, Abbot Hall Art Gallery(Kendal), Arts Council Great Britain(London), Art Gallery of South Australia (Adelaide), Art Gallery of Western Australia(Perth), Art Gallery of New South Wales(Sydney), Auckland Art Gallery, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, British Council(London), British Museum (London), Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation(London), Cheltenham Art Gallery, City Museum and Art Gallery(Bristol), Contemporary Art Society (London), Cornwall County Council Education Committee (Truro), Canterbury Museum, Christchurch(New Zealand), Exeter University, Falmouth Art Gallery, Ferens Art Gallery(Hull), Fitzwilliam Museum(Cambridge), Glasgow University, Government Art Collection(London), Huddersfield Art Gallery, Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum, Leeds City Art Gallery, Leicestershire County Council and Education Committee, Manchester City Education Department, National Gallery of Canada, (Ottawa), National Museum of Wales(Cardiff), National Portrait Gallery(London), Northampton Museum and Art Gallery, Oldham Art Gallery(Greater Manchester), Peter Scott Gallery Trust Collection(Lancaster), Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, Reading University, Rutherford Collection(Manchester City Art Gallery), Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art(Edinburgh), Southampton City Art Gallery, Southwark Council Art Collection(London), Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, Tate(London and St Ives), Tel Aviv Museum, The European Commission Conference Centre(Brussels), The Hepworth Wakefield, The Metropolitan Museum of Art(New York), Ulster Museum(Belfast), University of Exeter, University of Warwick, Vancouver Art Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum(London), Warwick Art Gallery and Museum(Royal Leamington Spa), Yale Centre for British Art(New Haven)

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- Martin Clark, Arwen Fitch and Sarah Hughes, *Hugh Stoneman: Master Printer*, exh. cat., Tate Publishing
- Tim Craven, *Boom Boom Cluster: The David and Liza Brown Bequest*, Southampton Art Gallery, Southampton
- Mel Gooding, *Terry Frost: Act & Image. Works on Paper through Six Decades*, Belgrave Gallery, London
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