

## JESS

**Born:** 1923; Long Beach, CA  
**Died:** 2004; San Francisco, CA

### Education:

California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA; B.S.  
University of California, Berkeley, CA  
California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA

### Solo Exhibitions:

- 2016 Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York; also 2014, 2011, 2008, 2009  
2015 *The Tiny Picture Show*, Pavel Zoubok, New York  
2008 Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA, also 2005, 1996, 1983  
2007-08 The Arion Press Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2007-09 *Jess: To and From the Printed Page*, curated by Ingrid Schaffner, San Jose Museum of Art, CA; Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, WI; Pasadena Museum of California Art, CA; Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin, TX; Douglas F. Cooley Memorial Art Gallery, Reed College, Portland, OR; The University of Iowa Museum of Art, Iowa City, IA; Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL  
1993-94 *Jess: A Grand Collage*, organized by Michael Auping, Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo, NY; traveled to: Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.  
1990 Palo Alto Cultural Center, CA  
John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
1989 San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA  
1987 The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
1983 The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL  
Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport, CA  
1982 Odyssea Gallery, New York, NY; also 1980, 1978, 1971  
1981 The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
1980 University Art Museum at the University of California, Berkeley, CA; also 1977  
1977 Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX  
1975 Galleria Odyssea, Rome, Italy  
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT  
1974 The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
1972 The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
1968 San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA  
1967 Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Cheney Cowles Museum, Spokane, WA  
1965 Rolf Nelson Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
1961 Borregaard's Museum, San Francisco, CA  
1960 Dilexi Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
1959 City Lights Bookstore, San Francisco, CA  
Gump's Art Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
1954 The Place, San Francisco, CA  
1953 The King Ubu Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
1951 Helvie Makela Gallery, San Francisco, CA

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## Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2016 *Beat Generation*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
- 2014 *Holding It Together: Collage, Montage, Assemblage*, Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*An Opening of The Field: Jess, Robert Duncan, and Their Circle*, The Grey Art Gallery, NYU, NY
- 2013 *SIGHT / VISION: The Urban Milieu*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA  
*An Opening of The Field: Jess, Robert Duncan, and Their Circle*, The Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA
- 2012 *The Painted Word*, Meridian Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Shred*, Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York, NY.
- 2009 *Metamorphosis Victorianus*, Ubu Gallery, New York, NY.
- 2008 *Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art*, Ackland Art Museum at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC  
*Entre Chien et Loup*, Kent Gallery, New York, NY.  
*Sparks! The William T. Kemper Collecting Initiative*, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO.
- 2007 *Pioneers*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, CA.
- 2005 *Jess and Ray Johnson, Word Pictures: Paste-ups Moticos, and Assemblages 1951-1997*, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2004 *Poetry and its Arts: Bay Area Interactions 1954-2004*, California Historical Society, San Francisco, CA.
- 1999 *Dream Architecture*, Kent Gallery, New York.
- 1998 *Art from Around the Bay*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA.
- 1993 *Parallel Visions: Modern Artists and Outsider Art*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 1992 *Hand-Painted Pop: American Art in Transition, 1955-62*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA  
*Robert Duncan: Drawings and Decorated Books*, University Art Museum at the University of California, Berkeley, CA  
*Poem Makers*, L.A. Louver, Los Angeles, CA  
*Sight Vision: The Urban Milieu: Number Three: Wallace Berman, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Wally Hedrick, George Herms, Jess*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA
- 1991-92 *Pop-Art*, Royal Academy of Arts, London; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid
- 1990 *Lyrical Vision: The 6 Gallery 1954-1957*, Natsoulas Novelozo Gallery, Davis, CA  
*Lyn Brockway, Harry Jacobus, and Jess: The Romantic Paintings*, Weigand Gallery of the College of Notre Dame, Belmont, CA
- 1989 *An Art of Wondering: The King Ubu Gallery 1952-1953*, Natsoulas Novelozo Gallery, Davis, CA.  
*Bay Area: Fresh Views*, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA  
*Forty Years of California Assemblage*, Wight Art Gallery at the University of California, Los Angeles, CA  
*Collage and Assemblage, Bill Bissett, George Herms, Jess, Al Neil*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada.
- 1988 *The Poetic Object*, San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, TX; Boise Art Museum, Boise, ID; Art Museum of South Texas, Corpus Christi, TX; Amarillo Art Center, Amarillo, TX  
*Different Drummers: Wallace Berman, Clyde Connell, Bruce Conner, Ovyind Fahlstrom, Robert Helm, Alfred Jensen, Jess, Luis Jimenez, Peter Saul*, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

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### Selected Group Exhibitions (continued):

- 1988 *Lost and Found in California: Four Decades of Assemblage Art*, James Corcoran Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 1987 *Made in USA: An Americanization in Modern Art, the 50's & 60's*, University Art Museum at the University of California, Berkeley, CA; The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA  
*Assemblage*, Kent Fine Art, Inc., New York, NY  
*Comic Iconoclasm*, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; Cornerhouse Gallery, Manchester; Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark
- 1986 *American/European Painting and Sculpture 1986: Part II*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA  
*The Spiritual in Art: Abstract Painting 1890-1985*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague
- 1985 *An Inside Place: Interior Spaces of the Mind and Eye*, Noyes Museum, Oceanville, NJ  
*Art in The San Francisco Bay Area, 1945-1980*, Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA  
*American/European Painting and Sculpture 1985: Part I*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA  
*Ars Medica: Art, Medicine, and the Human Condition*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH; Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA; Yasuda Kasai Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 1984 The Boise Gallery of Art, Boise, ID
- 1983 *The Comic Art Show: Cartoons in Painting and Popular Culture*, Whitney Museum of American Art, Downtown Branch, New York, NY  
*American Accents*, The Gallery/Stratford, Canada; College Park, Toronto; Musée du Québec; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax; Art Gallery of Windsor; The Edmonton Art Gallery; Vancouver Art Gallery; Glenbow Museum, Calgary; Musée d'art contemporain, Montreal
- 1982 *The Americans: The Collage*, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston, TX
- 1981 *California: A Sense of Individualism: Part I*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA  
*Pacific Coast States Collection from the Vice-President's House*, National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC
- 1980 *Mysterious and Magical Realism*, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT  
*Aspects of the 70's: Mavericks*, Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
- 1979 *Private Icon*, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York, NY  
*Works on Paper*, Odyssea Gallery, New York, NY
- 1978 *Narration*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA  
*8 Artists*, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA
- 1977 *Words at Liberty*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
*Perceptions of The Spirit in Twentieth-Century American Art*, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN; University Art Museum at University of California, Berkeley, CA; Marion Koogler McNay Art Institute, San Antonio, TX; Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Columbus, OH
- 1976 *Painting and Sculpture in California: The Modern Era*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 1975 *Art as a Muscular Principle/Ten Artists and San Francisco 1950-1965*, John and Norah Warbeke Gallery at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
- 1974 *Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture 1974*, Krannert Art Museum, Champaign, IL  
*Seventy-First American Exhibition*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
*Poets of The Cities, 1974*, Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, TX; Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT

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### Selected Group Exhibitions (continued):

- 1973 *Extraordinary Realities*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, NY; The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH
- 1972 *Seventieth American Exhibition*, The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- 1970 *American Painting 1970*, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA  
*A Century of California Painting 1870-1970*, Crocker Citizens National Bank, San Francisco, CA.  
*Symbol and Vision*, Gallery Reese Palley, San Francisco, CA
- 1969 *Pop Art*, Hayward Gallery, London  
*The Spirit of the Comics*, Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- 1968 *On Looking Back: Bay Area: 1945-1960*, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA  
*Elevated Underground: The North Beach Period*, Cellini Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1966 *Los Angeles Now*, Robert Fraser Gallery, London
- 1965 *California Here*, Macy's, New York, NY  
*American Collages*, State University College, Oswego, NY; Wells College, Aurora, NY; Art Gallery at Chatham College, Pittsburgh, PA; Allentown Art Museum, PA; The Museum of Modern Art, NY; Goucher College, Baltimore, MD; Kresge Art Center at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI; Gordon Fennel Gallery and Marvin Cone Gallery at Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA; Delaware Art Center, Wilmington; State University of New York at Geneseo
- 1964 Buzz Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Selection of Recent Works*, Rolf Nelson Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*The Painter and the Photograph*, Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA; Art Museum at Indiana University, Bloomington; Museum of Art at University of Iowa, Iowa City; University Art Museum at University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA
- 1963 *Pop Art U.S.A.*, Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, CA  
Lanyon Gallery, Palo Alto, CA  
Peacock Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1962 *The Arts of San Francisco: Painting and Sculpture*, San Francisco Museum of Art, CA  
*Some Points of View*, Stanford Art Gallery, Palo Alto, CA
- 1961 Pomona College Art Gallery, Pomona, CA  
*The Art of Assemblage*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; The Dallas Museum for Contemporary Arts, TX; San Francisco Museum of Art, CA
- 1960 Borregaard's Museum, San Francisco, CA
- 1953 The King Ubu Gallery, San Francisco, CA (January, September, October)  
*Harry Jacobs, Lynne Brown, Jess Collins*, The King Ubu Gallery, San Francisco, CA (May-June)
- 1952 *Students' Salon des Refusés*, California School of Fine Arts, CA

### Collections:

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY  
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL  
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX  
De Young Museum, San Francisco, CA  
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, IA  
Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, CA  
The Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, MI  
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC  
Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

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### Collections (continued):

Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX  
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL  
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY  
The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, MO.  
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA  
The Poetry/Rare Book Collection, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
University Art Museum, University of California at Berkeley  
Wadsworth Athenaeum, Hartford, CT  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY

### Selected Bibliography:

- 2011 Cotter, Holland. "The Medicine Bag," *The New York Times*, July 28.
- 2008 Carlin, T.J. "Jess: Paintings and Paste-ups," *Time Out New York*, June 19-25, pp. 33-36.  
Feinstein, Roni. "Jess," *Circa 1958: Breaking Ground in American Art* (catalogue), p. 40.  
Gardner, James. "An Act of Surrender, a Leap of Faith," *The New York Sun*, July 10.  
Hainley, Bruce. "Reviews: Jess," *Artforum*, February, pp. 297-298.  
Johnson, Ken. "Jess: Paintings and Paste-Ups," *The New York Times*, June 6.  
Killeen, Michael. "No-Nukes Artist, Warrior Maidens, Rubber Fruit: 57<sup>th</sup> Street Art," *Bloomberg.com*, June 5.  
Libby, Brian. "Collage of a Fascinating Life," *The Oregonian*, May 9.  
Motley, John. "Review: To and From the Printed Page," *Portland Mercury*, May 18.  
Naves, Mario. "Struck by Conscience," *New York Observer*.  
Self, Dana. "The Nelson spotlights hot new properties in Sparks!" *The Pitch*.
- 2008 Schwabsky, Barry. "Solemn, Expanded Time," *The Nation*, June 23.  
Yau, John. "Jess: Paintings and Paste-Ups," *The Brooklyn Rail*, September.
- 2007 Rogers, Michael. "Pulled Through Time: a Caltech Reporter Traces the Life of an Elusive Artist," *Caltech News*, Vol. 41, Num. 4.
- 2005 Auping, Michael. *Jess Word Pictures Ray Johnson: Paste-ups Moticos and Assemblage 1951-1997*, Hackett-Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, CA.
- 2004 Auping, Michael. "Solar Systems," *Artforum*, April.
- 1994 Duncan, Michael. "Maverick Modernist", *Art in America*, November.
- 1993 Auping, Michael. *Jess, A Grand Collage*, Buffalo Fine Arts Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY.
- 1991 Simas, Joseph. "Now, Now, Jess!" *Arts Magazine*, Summer, pp. 52-57.  
Hopkins, Henry T. *California Painters: New Work*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, pp. 88-90.
- 1990 Livingstone, Marco. *Pop Art: A Continuing History*. New York: Henry N. Abrams, Inc., pp. 29, 213, 250.  
Solnit, Rebecca. *Secret Exhibition: Six California Artists of the Cold War Era*. San Francisco: City Lights Books, pp. 30-43, 89-99, 102, 111-14.
- 1989 Ashbery, John. *Reported Sightings: Art Chronicles, 1957-1987*. Ed. David Bergman. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989, pp. 294-98.  
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- 1987 Auping, Michael. "Songs of Innocence," *Art in America*, January, pp. 118-27, 147.
- 1985 Cameron, Dan. "Illustration is Back in the Picture," *Art News*, November, pp. 114-20.
- 1984 Auping, Michael. *Jess: Paste-Ups, 1951-1983*, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, FL.  
McDonald, Robert. "Jess: Surveying the Paste-Ups," *Artweek*, May, Cover and p.1
- 1983 Cebulski, Frank. "Lyric Art," *Artweek*, May 23, p. 4.
- 1982 Ashbery, John. "Painting Becomes Theater," *Newsweek*, April 26, p. 63.  
Butera, Virginia Fabbri. *Arts*, September, p. 32.
- 1981 Hale, Niki. "Jess' California Soul in Paste-Up Mythology," *Art World*.  
Levin, Kim. *The Village Voice*, January 21.  
Frank, Elizabeth. "Jess at Odysia: Review of Exhibitions," *Art in America*, April, p. 143.  
Johns, Russell. "The Four Seasons and other Paste-Ups by Jess," *The New York Times*, Jan., p. C21.
- 1980 Armstrong, Richard. *Matrix/Berkeley 37: Jess*, University Art Museum, Berkeley, CA.  
Ashbery, John. "Metaphysical Overtones," *New York*, February 11.  
Leja, Michael. *Aspects of the 70s: Mavericks*, Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
- 1979 Burnside, Madeleine. "New York Reviews: Jess," *Art News*, February, p. 173.
- 1978 Jarmusch, Ann. "Free Wheeling Diversity," *Art News*, September, p. 134.  
Ashbery, John. "How to Stuff a Wild Stocking," *New York*, December 18, p. 115.  
Kramer, Hilton. "Two Collagists Tease the Eye," *The New York Times*, December 22.
- 1977 Kutner, Janet. "Jess Exhibits Imagery Captivates by Confusion," *Dallas Morning News*, April 25.  
Haacke, Lorraine. "Jess: An Artist with a Fascinating Style," *Dallas Times Herald*, April 29.  
Frankenstein, Alfred. "The Visual Quotations by Jess," *San Francisco Sunday Examiner and Chronicle*, June 12, p. 49.  
Baldwin, Nick. "The Key to Jess: Details," *Des Moines Sunday Register*, October 30.  
Stiles, Knute. "Jess at the University Art Museum, Berkeley," *Art in America*, November, p. 137.  
Murdock, Robert M. *Introduction to Translations, Salvages, Paste-Ups by Jess*, Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Dallas, TX.  
Duncan, Robert. *An Art of Wandering*, Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Dallas, TX.
- 1975 Miller-Keller, Andrea. *Matrix 2: Jess*, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT.  
Ashbery, John. *Jess*, Galleria Odysia, Rome, Italy.
- 1974 Ashbery, John. "Jess at the Museum of Modern Art." *Art in America*, March- April, p. 89-90.
- 1972 Prokopoff, Stephen. *Introduction to Jess: Paste-Ups*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL.
- 1971 Kramer, Hilton. "Translations by Jess", *The New York Times*, June 5.  
Bowles, Jerry G. "Reviews and Previews," *Art News*, Summer, p. 14.  
Gruen, John. *The Best Thing in Life is Me*, Galleries and Museums, New York, NY October 17.  
Channin, Richard. "Reviews and Previews," *Art News*, November, p. 26.  
Duncan, Robert. *Introduction to Translations by Jess*, Odysia Gallery, New York, NY.
- 1968 Duncan, Robert. *Paste-Ups by Jess*, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA.

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