

ALICE NEEL

Biography

//1900 January 28. Born in Merion Square, Pennsylvania. Moved to Colwyn when she was about three months old. //1918 Graduates from high school and works as a secretary while taking evening classes in art.

//1921 Enrolls in the Philadelphia School of Design for Women (now Moore College of Art and Design). //1924 Summer, attends the Chester Springs summer school of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Meets Cuban artist Carlos Enríquez. //1925 Graduates from the Philadelphia School of Design for Women. Marries Enríquez //1926 travels with him to Havana, Cuba. Holds her first solo exhibition there. December 26, daughter Santillana Enriquez born. //1927 May, returns to the United States with Santillana. First visits her family in Colwyn; in the autumn, moves with Enríquez and Santillana to New York. December, Santillana dies of diphtheria. //1928 November 24, daughter Isabella, called Isabetta, born.

//1930 May 1, Enríquez leaves for Cuba, taking Isabetta with him. He and Neel planned to go to Paris later in the year. Instead Enríquez goes to Paris without him. Neel has an intensely productive summer of painting which ends in a nervous breakdown on August 15. Hospitalized at the Orthopedic Hospital, Philadelphia. //1931 Winter, Enríquez returns to the USA and visits Neel a few times. Neel attempts suicide and is sent to the Wilmington Hospital. Briefly returns to the Orthopedic Hospital and then to the suicide ward of the Philadelphia General Hospital. Enríquez returns to Paris never to see Neel again. Neel spends summer at Dr. Ludlum's Sanatorium, where she recovers sufficiently to be sent home. September, goes home to Colwyn, then visits Nadya Olyanova in Stockton, New Jersey. Meets Kenneth Doolittle, a sailor. //1932 Moves with Kenneth Doolittle to Greenwich Village, New York City. Participates in Washington Square Outdoor Art Show where she meets John Rothschild, who runs an alternative travel business, *The Open Road*. Rothschild is a man of independent means //1933 December, enrolls on the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). Included in exhibition at the Mellon Galleries, Philadelphia. //1934 Summer, Isabetta comes to stay with her in Belmar, New Jersey. Neel paints her nude portrait. Winter, in a rage, Kenneth Doolittle destroys many of Neel's paintings and works on paper. Neel moves out to stay with Rothschild. //1935 With the help of Rothschild Neel acquires a cottage in Spring Lake, New Jersey where she will spend part of each summer for the rest of her life. September, joins the rolls of the WPA/Federal Art Project, Easel Division. Moved to West 17th Street, New York. Meets José Santiago, a Puerto Rican musician who moves in with her. //1936 Exhibits in a show of works by artist members of the American Artists' Congress at the ACA Gallery, New York //1937 July, hospitalized for a miscarriage in her sixth month of pregnancy. September, moves to 129 MacDougal Street, Greenwich Village. //1938 Moves to Spanish Harlem, East 107 Street. Exhibits 16 paintings in her first solo exhibition in New York at Contemporary Arts //1939 Summer, Isabetta travels from Havana to visit Neel at Spring Lake. September 14, Richard Neel born. December, Santiago leaves.

//1940 Winter, meets Sam Brody, Russian photographer and filmmaker. //1941 September 3, Hartley Stockton Neel born. Neel takes up a teaching appointment at Winifred Wheeler Day Nursery. //1942 November, moves to East 108 Street where she will live and work for the next 20 years. //1943 Congress terminates the WPA and Neel begins to collect public assistance which she will continue to do until the mid 1950s. //1944 March, solo exhibition at Pinacotheca Gallery, New York. //1946 May, Father dies. //1949 illustrations published in the left wing journal *Masses and Mainstream* and thereafter intermittently.

//1950 December, solo exhibition at ACA Gallery, New York. //1951 Solo exhibition at New Playwrights Theater, New York. //1953 Mother moves in with Neel and her two sons. Richard enters boarding school on a full scholarship. //1954 Mother dies. Second exhibition at ACA Gallery. //1955 Hartley Neel enters boarding school on full scholarship. Neel interviewed by FBI agents owing to her periodic involvement with the Communist Party. //1958 Sam Brody moves out of the apartment but will remain in her Neel's life off and on throughout the 1960s. //1959 Appears in Alfred Leslie and Robert Frank's film, *Pull My Daisy*. Buys a larger house in Spring Lake, New Jersey.

//1960 Paints portrait of Frank O'Hara, poet and curator at Museum of Modern Art. This is reproduced in *Art News*. //1961 Richard graduates from Columbia College. //1962 Included in group exhibition *Figures* held at Kornblee Gallery, New York. September, moves to 300 West 107th Street. Awarded the Longview Foundation Purchase award, given to under-recognized artists. Jurors are Harold Rosenberg and Thomas Hess. October, first major feature article on Neel appears in *Art News* written by critic Hubert Crehan. //1963 October, first Graham Gallery exhibition. Richard Neel and Nancy Greene marry. //1964 Richard graduates from Columbia Law School. //1965 January solo exhibition at Hopkins Center at Dartmouth

College. Summer, travels to Europe with Hartley. //1966 January, second solo show at Graham Gallery. //1967 Granddaughter Olivia born to Nancy and Richard. June, solo exhibition at Maxwell Galleries, San Francisco. //1968 January, solo exhibition at Graham Gallery. Joins the protest at the omission of women and African American artists from the Whitney Museum's exhibition *The 1930s: Painting and Sculpture in America*. //1969 January, joins demonstrations against the Metropolitan Museum's exhibition *Harlem on my Mind*. April, travels to the Soviet Union with John Rothschild. May, receives an Arts and Letters award from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York. Summer, travels to Mexico with Richard and Nancy. Late summer and Autumn Neel goes to live with her son Hartley and his future wife Virginia (Ginny) Taylor in their apartment in San Francisco for two months. Paints several important portraits there including that of Linus Pauling, Nobel Prize winner.

//1970 Hartley, by now a medical doctor, and Virginia Taylor marry. John Rothschild moves into Neel's New York apartment and will stay there until he dies in 1977. August, first of Neel's *Time* magazine covers published. //1971 January, holds a solo exhibition at her *alma mater* Moore College of Art and Design (formerly the Philadelphia School of Design for Women). February, awarded the Benjamin Altman Figure Prize. Nancy and Richard's twins, Alexandra and Antonia, born. May, joins the demonstration against the Whitney Museum's exhibition *Contemporary Black Artists in America*. June awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts by Moore College of Art and Design. Her doctoral address is published in the journal *Women and Art*. September, joins the protest against the Museum of Modern Art organised by the Black Emergency Cultural Coalition and Artists and Writers Protest against the War in Vietnam. //1972 Included in the Whitney Museum of American Art Annual. Travels to Greece and Africa with Hartley and Rothschild. // Exhibits *Joe Gould* (1933) and a nude portrait of John Perreault in *The Male Nude* organised by Perreault at the School of Visual Arts Gallery, New York. Hartley and Ginny Neel move to Stowe, Vermont where Neel will spend several weeks a year for the rest of her life. //1974 Major retrospective of Neel's portraits held at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Nancy and Richard's fourth daughter Victoria is born. //1975 Ginny and Hartley's daughter, Elizabeth, born. September, solo show at Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, Georgia. John Rothschild dies. //1976 Elected to the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and receives International Women's Year Award. December, Neel is included in the groundbreaking exhibition *Women Artists 1550-1950* organised by Linda Nochlin and Ann Sutherland Harris at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Both had previously sat for portraits. //1978 Ginny and Hartley's son, Andrew, born. //1979 Receives a National Women's Caucus for Art award for outstanding achievement in art, presented by President, Jimmy Carter. Major retrospective exhibition held in Connecticut at the University of Bridgeport and the Slivermine Guild of Artists.

//1981 Major solo exhibition held at the Artists' Union, Moscow. Travels to Moscow with her extended family to attend the opening //1983 Receives the Benjamin Altman Figure Prize for a second time. Patricia Hills' monograph is published by Abrams//1984 February, solo show at Robert Miller Gallery, New York. Appears on Johnny Carson show and again later in the year. October 13. Dies from cancer in New York City.

Selected Posthumous Solo Exhibitions

- 2020 *Alice Neel – Un Regard Engage*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France
Alice Neel: There's still another I see, Victoria Miro, London, UK
- 2019 *Freedom*, David Zwirner, New York, USA
- 2018 *Alice Neel in New Jersey and Vermont*, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 *Alice Neel: The Great Society*, Aurel Scheibler, Berlin
Alice Neel: Painter of Modern Life, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany
Alice Neel, Uptown, Victoria Miro, Venice
Alice Neel, Uptown, Victoria Miro, London
Alice Neel, Uptown, David Zwirner, New York
- 2016 *The Subject and Me*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh
Alice Neel: Painter of Modern Life, Ateneum Art Museum, Helsinki, 10 June – 2 October 2016; travelling to Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, 5 November 2016 – 12 February 2017; Fondation Vincent van Gogh, Arles, 4 March – 17 September 2017; Deichtorhallen, Hamburg 13 October 2017 – 14 January 2018
- 2015 Thomas Ammann Fine Art AG, Zurich

- Xavier Hufkens, St. Jorisstraat, Brussels
Drawings and Watercolors 1927 – 1978, David Zwirner, New York
- 2014 *My Animals and Other Family*, Victoria Miro Mayfair, London
- 2013 *People and Places. Paintings by Alice Neel*, Gallery Hyundai, Seoul
Intimate Relations, Nordiska Akvarellmuseet, Skarhamn
- 2012 *Late Portraits & Still Lifes*, David Zwirner Gallery, New York
- 2011 *Men Only*, Victoria Miro, London
Paintings and Drawings, Aurel Scheibler Gallery, Berlin
Family, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin
- 2010 *Painted Truths*, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas, 21 March – 13 June 2010; travelling to the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, 9 July – 19 September 2010 and the Moderna Museet, Malmö, 10 October 2010 – 2 January 2011
- 2009 *Selected Works*, David Zwirner Gallery, New York
Works on Paper, Victoria Miro, London
- 2008 *Collector of Souls*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm
Drawing from Life, Moore College of Art and Design, Philadelphia
- 2007 *The Cycle of Life*, Victoria Miro, London
Pictures of People, Aurel Scheibler, Berlin
- 2005 *Alice Neel's Women*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C.
- 2004 *A Chronicle of New York 1950-1976*, Victoria Miro, London
- 2000 *Alice Neel*, organised by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, 18 February - April 15, 2001; travelling to the Whitney Museum of American Art New York, 29 June – 17 September; Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Massachusetts, 6 October – 31 December 2001; Philadelphia Museum of Art, 18 February – 15 April 2001; Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis, 10 June – 2 September 2001; Denver Museum of Art, 6 October – 30 December 2001

Selected Posthumous Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *Winterreise*, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 *Au rendez-vous des amis*, Aurel Scheibler, Berlin, Germany
Neel / Picasso, Sara Kay Gallery, New York, USA
God Made My Face: A Collective Portrait of James Baldwin, Curated by Hilton Als, David Zwirner, New York, USA
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, The Broad, Los Angeles, USA; Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco, California, USA; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
Never Again. Art against War and Fascism in the 20th and 21st centuries, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
She Persists: A Century of Women Artists in New York, 1919-2019, Gracie Mansion Conservatory, New York, USA
In Honor of the New MoMA, Cheim & Read, New York, USA
Art after Stonewall, 1969-1989, Frost Art Museum, Miami, USA
Women take the Floor, MFA Boston, Boston, USA
- 2018 *Constructing the World: Art and Economy 1919-1939 and 2008-2018*, Kunsthalle Mannheim Mannheim, Germany
25 Years, David Zwirner, New York, USA
The Ethics of Scrutiny, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland (15th February-2nd September)
The American Dream. American Realism 1965-2017, Kunsthalle Emden, Emden, DE

- Painting the Night*, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France
Dual Roles, Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, Hollywood, USA
Monuments to Us, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Boston, USA
Studio Visit: Selected Gifts from Agnes Gund, MoMA, New York, USA
Animals & Us, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK
Acts of Translation, MMAG Foundation, Amman, Jordan
- 2017 *Self Collection: The End of Love*, Whitechapel Gallery, London
Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power, Tate Modern, London
House Work, Victoria Miro, London
- 2016 *These Strangers... Painting and People*, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K.), Ghent
Protest, Victoria Miro, London
First Light: A Decade of Collecting at the ICA Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts (2016 – 2017)
Behold the Man, Museum de Fundatie, Zwolle, The Netherlands
Coming to Power: 25 Years of Sexually X-Plicit Art By Women, Maccarone, New York
Rockwell and Realism in an Abstract World, Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, Massachusetts
Making & Unmaking, Camden Arts Centre, London
Open Ended: Painting and Sculpture Since 1900, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California
Unfinished: Thoughts Left Visible, Met Breuer, New York
Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2016 – 2017)
- 2015 *The Great Mother/La Grande Madre*, by Fondazione Nicola Trussardi at Palazzo Reale, Milan for Expo in città 2015
All back in the skull together, Maccarone, New York
Tightrope Walk: Painted Images After Abstraction, curated by Barry Schwabsky, White Cube, London
Forces in Nature, Victoria Miro, London
Reimagining Modernism: 1900-1950, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
America is Hard to See, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 2014 *Face Value: Portraiture in the Age of Abstraction*, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Alice Neel/Erastus Salisbury Field: Painting the People, Bennington Museum, Vermont
Expanding the Field of Painting, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
Solitary Soul, Michael Rosenfeld Gallery, New York
- 2013 *American Legends: From Calder to O'Keeffe*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Cinematic Visions: Painting at the Edge of Reality, Victoria Miro, London
Cockerline Collection: Prints of the 60s, 70s, and 80s, South Dakota Art Museum, South Dakota
Expanding the Field of Painting, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
Eye to I... 3,000 Years of Portraits, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, New York
Looking Back/The 7th White Columns Annual, White Columns, New York
Private Artist/Public Life: Ethel V. Ashton, Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia
- 2012 *Behold, America! Art of the United States from Three San Diego Museums*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; travelling to The San Diego Museum of Art; Timken Museum of Art, San Diego, California
Künstlerkinder von Runge bis Richter, von Dix bis Picasso, Kunsthalle Emden, Emden, Germany
We the People, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, New York
- 2011 *Art Since the Mid-20th Century*, Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts
Birds and Flowers, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene, Oregon
Body Gesture: A group exhibition of Feminist Art, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, Oregon
Carolina Collects: 150 Years of Modern and Contemporary Art from Alumni Collections, Ackland Museum of Art, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.; travelling to Brooklyn Museum, New York; Tacoma Art Museum, Washington

Victoria Miro

- 2010 *Extreme Makeover*, Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, Stanford, California
Facing the Figure: Selected Works from the Collection, 1962-2007, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
The Figure: Contemporary Works from the Collection, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
Limners to Facebook: Portraiture from the 19th to the 21st Century, Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, North Carolina
Recent Acquisitions, St. Louis University Museum of Art, Missouri
Self-Consciousness, Veneklasen/Werner, Berlin
In the Company of Alice, Victoria Miro, London
- 2009 *Benches & Binoculars*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Paint Made Flesh, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, 23 January – 10 May 2009; travelling to Phillips Collection, Washington D.C., 20 June – 13 September 2009 and Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, 23 October 2009 – 3 January 2010
The Expanding Eye: Art Inspired by Edgar Ellen Poe, University of Virginia Art Museum, Charlottesville, Virginia
The Figure and Dr. Freud, Haunch of Venison, New York
Nexus New York: Latin/American Artists in the Modern Metropolis, El Museo del Barrio, New York
- 2007 *Whack! Art and the Feminist Revolution*, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles
The Naked Portrait, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, 6 June – 2 September 2007; travelling to Compton Verney, Warwickshire, 27 September – 9 December 2007
- 2001 *Naked Since 1950*, C & M Arts, New York
- 2000 *The Human Factor: Figuration in American Art*, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska, 7 December 2000 – 4 February 2001; travelling to Edwin A. Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, 19 September – 27 October 2002; Philharmonic Center for the Arts, Naples, Florida, 1 February – 24 March, 2000
- 1999 *The American Century: Art & Culture 1950-2000*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
In Memory of My Feelings: Frank O'Hara and American Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- 1998 *Faces of Time: 75 Years of Time Magazine Cover Portraits*, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.
In Her Voice: Self Portraits by Women, Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania
- 1997 *Views from Abroad: European Perspectives on American Art 3: American Realities*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Body, The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Faces & Figures, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn, New York
Feminine Image, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn, New York
- 1996 *50/50: Fifty Artists from Fifty Years of Skowhegan*, Pace Wildenstein Gallery and Robert Miller Gallery, New York
Beat Culture and the New America, 1950-1965, de Young Museum, San Francisco
Partners in Printmaking: Works from SOLO Impression, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.
Poet Rebels of the 1950s, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1995 *Femininmasculin: le se de l'art*, Centre Georges Pompidou
Face Value: American Portraits, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York; travelling to Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; Tampa Museum of Art, Florida
Voices of Conscience: Then and Now, A.C.A. Gallery, New York
- 1994 *Against All Odds: The Healing Powers of Art*, Ueno Royal Museum, Tokyo; travelling to Hakone Open-Air Museum, Kanagawa-ken, Japan
Aspects of Face and Form, Vanderwoude Tananbaum Gallery, New York
Face-Off: The Portrait in Recent Art, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; travelling to Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska; Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, North Carolina
- 1993 *The Portrait Now*, National Portrait Gallery, London

Drawing the Line Against AIDS, Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice; travelling to Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

I am the Enunciator, Thread Waxing Space, New York

They Earn(ed) Their Keep, The Discovery Museum, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Third Williams Alumni Loan Exhibition: 200 Years of American Art, Williams Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts

Selected Public Collections

Art Institute of Chicago; Baltimore Museum of Art; Bates College, Maine; Boston Museum of Fine Arts; Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; Colgate University, New York; Columbus Museum; Dartmouth College, New Hampshire; Denver Art Museum; Greenville County Museum of Art; Honolulu Academy of Arts; J. B. Speed Art Museum; Milwaukee Art Museum; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Tate, London; University of Nebraska; University of Texas and University of Wisconsin.

Selected Bibliography

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- 2016 Jeremy Lewison, *Alice Neel: Painter of Modern Life*, Hatje Cantz Verlag
Alice Neel: The Subject and Me, Edinburgh: Talbot Rice Gallery, The University of Edinburgh
- 2015 Messud, Claire, *Alice Neel: Drawings and Watercolours*, New York: David Zwirner Books
- 2014 Kirsty Bell, *Alice Neel: My Animals and Other Family*, London: Victoria Miro
- 2013 Kirsty Bell, 'Alice Neel' in *The Artist's House: from workplace to artwork*, Sternberg Press
Jeremy Lewison, 'Alice Neel and her Legacy' in *Alice Neel: People and Places. Paintings by Alice Neel*, Seoul: Gallery Hyundai
Bera Nordal, ed., *Alice Neel: Nära Relationer (Intimate Relations)*, Skärhamn, Sweden, Nordiska Akvarellmuseet
- 2012 Tim Griffin, 'A Scene of Her Selves' in *Alice Neel. Late Portraits and Still Lifes*, New York and Santa Fe: David Zwirner and Radius Books
- 2011 Sue Hubbard, *Alice Neel: Men Only*, London: Victoria Miro
Adam Phillips, 'Sitting Targets' in *Alice Neel: Family*. Dublin: The Douglas Hyde Gallery
- 2010 *Alice Neel: Painted Truths*, Houston: The Museum of Fine Arts
- 2009 *Alice Neel: Works on Paper*, London: Victoria Miro
- 2007 *Alice Neel: The Cycle of Life*, London: Victoria Miro
- 2004 Jeremy Lewison, 'Alice Neel: A Chronicle of Her Times' in *Alice Neel A Chronicle of New York 1950-1976*, London: Victoria Miro
- 2002 Carr, Carolyn, *Alice Neel: Women. Mirror of Identity*, New York, Rizzoli Temkin, Ann, ed. *Alice Neel*. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art
- 1998 Allara, Pamela. *Pictures of People: Alice Neel's American Portrait Gallery*. Hanover: University Press of New England

- 1996 Chadwick, Whitney. *Women, Art, and Society*. London: Thames and Hudson
- 1991 Belcher, Gerald and Margaret. *Collecting Souls, Gathering Dust: The Struggles of Two American Artists*. New York: Paragon House
- 1985 Castle, Ted, interview with Alice Neel. *Alice Neel Paintings since 1970* Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts
- 1983 Hills, Patricia. *Alice Neel*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc.
- 1983 Sutherland Harris, Ann, text of lecture by Alice Neel, *Alice Neel: Painting 1933 – 1982*. Los Angeles: Art Gallery, Loyola Marymount University
- 1979 Munro, Eleanor. *Originals: American Women Artists*. New York: Simon & Schuster

For full biographical details see Temkin, Ann, ed. *Alice Neel*. Philadelphia: Philadelphia Museum of Art, 2000.