Milton Avery

Born in 1885 in Altmar, New York, USA
Died in 1965 in New York, USA

Education

1905–1918 Connecticut League of Art Students, Hartford, Connecticut, USA

Selected Chronology

1885 Milton Clark Avery born 7 March, the youngest of four children, to Russell N and Esther March Avery in Sand Bank (later renamed Altmar), New York.

1898 Family moves to Wilson Station, near East Hartford, Connecticut.

1901 Begins working for Hartford Machine and Screw Company, first as an aligner and then as an assembler.

1904 Works for Underwood Manufacturing Company for the next six years as an assembler, a latheman and subsequently a mechanic.

1905 Enrols at the Connecticut League of Art Students, Hartford, Connecticut, first in a lettering class and subsequently in a life drawing class. Remains enrolled at the League until 1918.

1911 Begins to list his occupation as artist.

1915 Exhibits publicly for the first time in the *Fifth Annual Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Sculpture* at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut.

1918 Transfers to the School of the Art Society of Hartford.

1920 First visit to Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he spends the next few summers.

1924 Meets Sally Michel, an art student, in Gloucester and becomes a member of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts.

1925 Moves to New York City with fellow artist Wallace Putnam in order to be near Sally Michel. After several months of living with Putnam, Avery takes a room with another friend on Staten Island.

1926 Marries Sally Michel on 1 May. They honeymoon in Hartford. On their return, the couple lives in New York City. Avery begins attending the Art Students League sketch class several evenings a week, which he continues until 1938. Sally works as a freelance illustrator (for *Progressive Grocer*, for Macy's department store, and later *The New York Times*) in order to enable Avery to paint full time.

1927 Included in his first New York group show, the *11th Annual Exhibition of the Society of Independent Artists*, at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

1928 Avery's work is selected by Bernard Karfiol for an exhibition of eight artists at the Opportunity Gallery, New York. The exhibition also includes work by Mark Rothko. Avery holds his first solo exhibition in New York,

Milton Avery: Watercolors, at the Frank K.M. Rehn Gallery. Avery and the violinist Louis Kaufman are introduced by the artist Aaron Berkman, a friend in common. It is the beginning of what will be a lifelong friendship. Soon after, Kaufman buys *Still Life with Bananas and a Bottle*, 1928, for $25. He is the first collector to purchase an oil painting by Avery.

1929 First Avery painting to enter a museum: Duncan Phillips purchases *Winter Riders*, 1929, from the Morton Gallery for the Phillips Memorial Gallery (later The Phillips Collection), Washington, DC.

1930 Awarded the Mr & Mrs Frank G Logan Prize of $250 for *White Horse*, 1930, in the annual watercolour exhibition at The Art Institute of Chicago.

1932 Spends the summer in Gloucester, Massachusetts, with Adolph Gottlieb, Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman. Daughter, March, is born in October.

1935 Albert Barnes purchases *The Nursemaid*, 1934, from Avery's first solo exhibition at the Valentine Gallery, New York.

1935–43 The Averys spend several summers in Vermont (at Jamaica and Rawsonville), sometimes joined by or visiting Gottlieb and Rothko.

1938 Works briefly in the Easel Division of the Works Progress Administration/Federal Art Project. Summers on the Gaspé Peninsula, Québec, Canada. Stops attending the Art Students League; instead, the Averys and friends regularly hire a model and sketch at each other's homes. The Averys move to 294 West 11th Street, New York.

1940 Avery, Gottlieb and Rothko resign from the American Artists' Congress. All three participate in the formation of the Federation of Modern Painters and Sculptors.

1941 Drives cross-country to California, where he spends one month in Laguna Beach. Stops en route in Arizona, and in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

1943 Leaves the Valentine Gallery and joins Paul Rosenberg & Co, New York. Financier and art patron Roy Neuberger purchases thirty-five paintings. Avery begins to date his paintings on the front of the canvas.

1944 1944 First solo museum exhibition, at the Phillips Memorial Gallery (later The Phillips Collection), Washington, DC.

1945 Concurrent exhibitions with the Rosenberg and Durand-Ruel Galleries in New York. Avery continues to work with both galleries for the next five years.

1946 In April, takes a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains, Tennessee. During the summer travels to Mexico for three months, staying six weeks in San Miguel de Allende.

1947 First retrospective exhibition, *My Daughter, March*, is held at Durand-Ruel Galleries, New York. Summers in Canada, near Toronto, Ontario, then moves on to the Canadian northwest, Oregon and Montana.

1948 Awarded first prize for the watercolour *Sea and Rocks*, 1944, in the Baltimore National Watercolor Exhibition.

1949 Suffers a major heart attack and is hospitalised for six weeks. Recuperates at a friend's house in Millbrook, New York, and spends the winter convalescing as a Bok Fellow at the Research Art Colony for writers and

Painters, Maitland, Florida. During this period he experiments with monotype. Holds his final exhibition with Paul Rosenberg & Co.

1950 Spends his first summer in Woodstock, New York. Roy Neuberger purchases fifty paintings from Paul Rosenberg. During the winter, Avery returns as a Bok Fellow to the Research Art Colony.

1951 Joins the newly opened Grace Borgenicht Gallery. Holds his first exhibition there in October.

1952 Travels to Europe for the first time, visiting London, Paris and the French Riviera. In December a retrospective exhibition opens at The Baltimore Museum of Art. Executes woodcuts; he continues working in this medium until 1955, when the physical effort of cutting and printing becomes too strenuous.

1953 First residency at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1954 Daughter, March, graduates from Barnard College and marries Philip G. Cavanaugh. Second residency at the MacDowell Colony. First trip to Provincetown, Massachusetts.

1955 Residency at Yaddo, near Saratoga Springs, New York.

1956 Third residency at the MacDowell Colony.

1957 Major article on Avery by Clement Greenberg published in *Arts Magazine*.

1957–61 Summers in Provincetown, Massachusetts, along with Gottlieb and Rothko. Executes his first large-scale paintings.

1959 Suffers deteriorating health. On the advice of his doctor, spends the winter in Key West, Florida, to recuperate. The Averys move to Central Park West, New York.

1960 Retrospective exhibition, organised by the American Federation of Arts, opens at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Suffers a second heart attack.

1962 Hilton Kramer writes the first monograph on Avery, *Milton Avery: Paintings 1930–1960*.

1963 Elected Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

1964 Paints his last painting in February.

1965 Milton Avery dies 3 January at Montefiore Hospital, the Bronx, New York. He is buried in the Artists' Cemetery, Woodstock, New York. On 7 January, a memorial service is held at the Society for Ethical Culture, New York.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 *Milton Avery: The Figure*, Karma, Los Angeles, California, USA

2025 *Milton Avery: The Figure*, Karma, New York, USA
Colour, Form and Composition: Milton Avery and His Enduring Influence on Contemporary Painting, Malta International Contemporary Art Space, Malta (2025–2026)

2024 *Milton Avery: Boundary of Silence*, He Art Museum, Foshan, China (2024–2025)

2023 *Forms from Nature*, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium

2022 *Milton Avery: Fifty Paintings/Fifty Years*, Yares Art, New York, USA

2021 *A Sense of Place*, Waqas Wajahat, New York, USA [Online]
Milton Avery, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, USA (2021–2022); travelling to Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut, USA (2022); Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK (2022)

2019 *Milton Avery: The Late Portraits*, Victoria Miro Venice, Italy
Summer with the Averys [Milton | Sally | March], Bruce Museum, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA
Milton Avery: A Selection of Paintings, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA

2018 *Milton Avery: Early Works on Paper + Late Paintings*, Yares Art Gallery, New York, USA

2017 *Milton Avery*, Victoria Miro Mayfair, London, UK

2016 *Milton Avery's Vermont*, Bennington Museum, Vermont, USA

2015 *Milton Avery: Selected Paintings*, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA

2014 *Milton Avery: A Concentration of Drawings and Prints*, Fischbach Gallery, New York, USA

2013 *Milton Avery*, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA

2012 *The Tides of Provincetown*, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, Massachusetts, USA
Milton Avery – Selected Works, Fischbach Gallery, New York, USA

2011 *Focus On: Milton Avery*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, USA
Milton Avery & the End of Modernism, Nassau County Museum of Art, Roslyn Harbor, New York, USA

2010 *Milton Avery: Industrial Revelations*, Knoedler & Company, New York, USA
Milton Avery, Riva Yares Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

2009 *Placing Avery: Paintings and Prints from the Collection of the Neuberger Museum of Art*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, USA
Milton Avery, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA
Milton Avery, Riva Yares Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

2008 *Milton Avery: The Kaufman Collection*, Coral Springs Museum of Art, Florida, USA

2007 *Milton Avery: Still Lifes 1927–1960*, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, UK

2006 *Milton Avery and the Sea*, Alpha Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Milton Avery, Hackett Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA
Milton Avery, Riva Yares Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

2005 *Milton Avery: A Retrospective of Nudes*, Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida, USA
Placing Avery: Selections from the Permanent Collection, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, USA
Milton Avery, Riva Yares Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

2004 *Discovering Milton Avery: Two Devoted Collectors: Louis Kaufman and Duncan Phillips*, The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, USA
Milton Avery: Works on Paper, Waddington Custot Galleries, London, UK
Milton Avery, Riva Yares Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA
Milton Avery, Riva Yares Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Milton Avery: Paintings from the Neuberger Museum Collection, Samuel Dorsky Museum of Art, New Paltz, New York, USA

2003 *Milton Avery*, Riva Yares Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
Milton Avery, Hackett Freedman Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA
Milton Avery, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA

2002 *Milton Avery*, Miriam Shiell Fine Art, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Milton Avery: The Late Paintings, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California, USA
Milton Avery: Master of American Modernism, George Krevsky Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA
Milton Avery: The Late Paintings, Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA

2001 *Milton Avery: The Late Paintings*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA

2000 *Milton Avery: Independent Vision*, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA

1999 *Milton Avery*, DC Moore Gallery, New York, USA

1997 *Milton Avery's 'Ebb & Flow'*, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, Winter Park, Florida, USA

1994–95 *Milton Avery: Paintings from the Collection of the Neuberger Museum of Art*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, New York, USA; travelling to Heckscher Museum, Huntington, New York, USA; The Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, New York, USA
Milton Avery: Works on Paper, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA

1991–92 *Milton Avery: Watercolors 1929–1960*, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine, USA; travelling to Harmon-Meek Gallery II, Naples, Florida, USA; Tampa Museum of Art, Florida, USA

1990 *Milton Avery: Works from the 1950s in the Collection of the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth*, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, USA

1988–89 *Milton Avery: Progressive Images*, Boise Art Museum, Idaho, USA; travelling to Museum of Art, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, USA; Western Gallery, Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, USA; Yellowstone Art Center, Billings, Montana, USA

1986–87 *Milton Avery: Paintings of Canada*, Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada; travelling to Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada; Edmonton Art Gallery, Alberta, Canada; Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; Concordia Art Gallery, Montréal, Québec, Canada

1986 *Milton Avery*, Neuberger Museum, State University of New York, Purchase, New York, USA

1984 *Milton Avery*, Neuberger Museum, State University of New York, Purchase, New York, USA

1983 *Milton Avery – Paintings, Drawings and Prints*, Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach, Florida, USA

1982–83 *Milton Avery*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA; travelling to Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; Fort Worth Art Museum, Texas, USA; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, USA; Denver Art Museum, Colorado, USA; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

1982 *Milton Avery on Paper*, Whitney Museum of American Art, Fairfield County, Stamford, Connecticut, USA

1981–82 *Avery in Mexico and After*, Sarah Campbell Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, Texas, USA; travelling to Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico; Museo de Monterrey, Mexico; Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela; Newport Harbor Art Museum, Newport Beach, California, USA

1981 *Milton Avery: Large Late Paintings*, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

1980 *Milton Avery: Drawings*, San Francisco Museum of Art, California, USA
Milton Avery, University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, California, USA
Milton Avery: The Late Paintings, Akron Art Institute, Ohio, USA

1976–77 *Milton Avery: Drawings and Paintings*, University of Texas Art Museum, Austin, Texas, USA; travelling to Summit Art Center, New Jersey, USA; The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, USA; The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida, USA
Milton Avery: Selections from the Collection, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA

1976 *Milton Avery and the Landscape*, The William Benton Museum of Art, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA

1973 *The Graphic Work of Milton Avery*, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA; circulated by the International Exhibitions Foundation. Itinerary includes: Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana; Portland Museum of Art, Maine; Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Fort Lauderdale Museum of the Arts, Florida; The Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina; Beaumont Art Museum, Texas; The Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland; Hackley Art Museum, Muskegon, Michigan; Albrecht Art Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri; Tyler Museum of Art, Texas

1971 *The Sea by Milton Avery*, Louise E. Thorne Memorial Art Gallery, Keene State College, New Hampshire, USA; travelling to Currier Gallery of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire, USA; Williams College Museum of Art, Massachusetts, USA

1970 *Milton Avery Retrospective*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

1969–70 *Milton Avery*, National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA; travelling to The Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA; The Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts, Ohio, USA

1968 *Milton Avery, 1893–1965*, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama, USA

1965–66 *Milton Avery Paintings: 1941–1963*, circulated by The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA. Itinerary: The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC; Mercer University, Macon, Georgia; Indiana University, Bloomington; Mary Washington College, University of Virginia, Fredericksburg; Michigan State University, East Lansing; Coe

College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio, Texas; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado; Madison Art Center, Madison, Wisconsin; Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York

1964 *Paintings by Milton Avery*, Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, USA

1962 *Milton Avery*, The Fort Wayne Art Museum, Indiana, USA

1960 *Milton Avery*, circulated by The American Federation of Arts. Itinerary: Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA; travelling to Bennington College, Vermont; Bradford Junior College, Bradford, Massachusetts; Heckscher Museum, Huntington, New York; Everhart Museum, Scranton, Pennsylvania; Swain School of Design, New Bedford, Massachusetts; Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine; Lyman Allyn Museum, New London, Connecticut; Art Department, Pennsylvania State College, University Park; The Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland; Art Department, University of Kentucky, Lexington; University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana; Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; University of Wisconsin, Madison; Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City; The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California

1956 *Milton Avery*, The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, USA

1952–53 *Milton Avery*, The Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland, USA; travelling to The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, USA; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Connecticut, USA; Lowe Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA; Delaware Art Center, Wilmington, Delaware, USA; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

1947 *Milton Avery Paintings*, Portland Art Museum, Oregon, USA

1944 *Milton Avery*, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Washington, DC, USA

Selected Public Collections

Ackland Art Museum, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA
Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, USA
Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
Albertina, Vienna, Austria
The Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, USA
The Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland, USA
The Barnes Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Bennington Museum, Vermont, USA
Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA
Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA
Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA
Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA
Buffalo AKG Art Museum, New York, USA
Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, USA
Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, California, USA
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia, USA
The Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA
Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine, USA

Dayton Art Institute, Ohio, USA
Denver Art Museum, Colorado, USA
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, California, USA
Flint Institute of Arts, Michigan, USA
Grey Art Museum, New York University, New York, USA
Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA
Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, USA
Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii, USA
The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California, USA
Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, Indiana, USA
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, California, USA
Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, USA
McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas, USA
Mead Art Museum, Amherst College, Massachusetts, USA
Memorial Art Gallery, University of Rochester, New York, USA
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin, USA
Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, USA
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Mississippi, USA
Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, USA
Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey, USA
Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, Québec, Canada
Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, South Hadley, Massachusetts, USA
Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Canada
Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Illinois, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA
The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, USA
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, Purchase, New York, USA
New Britain Museum of American Art, Connecticut, USA
New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, New Jersey, USA
New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana, USA
The New York Public Library, New York, USA
North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA
Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida, USA
Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma, USA

Orlando Museum of Art, Florida, USA
Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Desert, California, USA
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania, USA
The Phillips Collection, Washington, DC, USA
Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona, USA
Portland Art Museum, Oregon, USA
Portland Museum of Art, Maine, USA
Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey, USA
Provincetown Art Association and Museum, Massachusetts, USA
RISD Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, USA
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA
San Diego Museum of Art, California, USA
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, USA
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, USA
Sheldon Museum of Art, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska, USA
Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC, USA
Tate, London, UK
Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel
Terra Foundation for American Art, Chicago, Illinois, USA
University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, USA
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, Connecticut, USA
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
Wichita Art Museum, Kansas, USA
Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, USA