



# Tess Jaray

Born in 1937, Vienna, Austria; moved to UK in 1938.

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## BIOGRAPHY

Tess Jaray RA is a British painter and printmaker. Born in Vienna in 1937, Jaray grew up in rural Worcestershire, England, where her parents emigrated in 1938 after the annexation of Austria by Nazi Germany made it unsafe for people of Jewish descent to live there. She taught at The Slade School of Fine Art, UCL from 1968 until 1999. Over the last twenty years Jaray has completed a succession of major public art projects. She was made an Honorary Fellow of RIBA (Royal Institute for British Architects) in 1995 and a Royal Academician in 2010.

The impact of Renaissance architectural spaces Jaray encountered on her travels in Italy were formative for the development of her distinctive technique. In these ceilings she saw how simple lines interacted to transform space, powerfully inducing emotional responses. Writing on Jaray's paintings of the 60s Jasia Reichardt said they could be called "ceiling geography" because they suggest views of an interior seen from below... Her paintings suggest some underlying mystery through the suggestion of architectural perspective.' Much of her career as a painter has been spent investigating the quality of effects geometry, pattern, repetition and colour have on space.

The patterns she creates evoke spatial ambiguities and shifting structures which work on the viewer's perceptions in subtle ways. According to the critic Terry Pitts, her work 'sense(s) the way in which history of decoration and patterning is embedded with elemental human experiences and impulses'. At this time of significant development, in 1964 Jaray began teaching. For four years she taught at Hornsey College of Art, before becoming the first female teacher at the Slade in 1968. In 1999 Jaray became Reader Emeritus in Fine

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## SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Tess Jaray, Marc Straus*, New York City, USA
- 2019 *Tess Jaray: East of the West*, EXILE in association with Karsten Schubert, Vienna, Austria
- 2019 *Tess Jaray: From Outside*, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, United Kingdom
- 2019 *Tess Jaray: Paintings*, Keeper's House, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Tess Jaray: Aleppo*, Exile Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 *Tess Jaray, Early Paintings*, Sotheby's S|2, London, United Kingdom
- 2017 *Tess Jaray: The Light Surrounded*, Alebertz Benda, New York City, USA
- 2017 *Tess Jaray: Into Light*, Marlborough Fine Art, London, United Kingdom
- 2016 *Tess Jaray: Dark & Light*, Megan Piper, London, United Kingdom
- 2014 *The Landscape of Space*, Djanogly Art Gallery, Nottingham, United Kingdom
- 2013 *Drawings*, Karsten Schubert, London, United Kingdom
- 2012 Piper Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2008 Lyon & Turnbull, London, United Kingdom
- 2003 Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2001 Clifford Chance, London, United Kingdom
- 2001 Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1993 Todd Galley, London, United Kingdom
- 1988 The Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1984 The Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, United Kingdom
- 1984 The Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom
- 1980 Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, Australia
- 1976 Angela Flowers Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1973 *Tess Jaray, Marc Vaux: Recent Paintings*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1972 City Art Gallery, Bristol, United Kingdom
- 1972 Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, United Kingdom

- 1969 Axiom Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 1967 Richard Demarco Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
 1965 Hamilton Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 1963 Grabowski Gallery, London, United Kingdom
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## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Hard Painting 2*, Phoenix Art Space, Brighton, UK Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2018 *Harder Edge*, h Club Gallery and Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2018 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2018 *Surface Work*, Victoria Miro, London, United Kingdom  
 2018 *Kaleidoscope: Colour and Sequence in 1960s British Art*, Longside Gallery Yorkshire Sculpture Park; Nottingham Lakeside Arts, University of Nottingham; Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, United Kingdom  
 2017 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2017 *Melancholia*, A Sebald Variation, Kings College, London, United Kingdom  
 2016 *Turn the Colour down*, Turps Gallery London, United Kingdom  
 2016 *Tell it Slant*, Frith Street Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2015 *Extra Terrestrial*, East Gallery NUA, Norwich University of the Arts, Norwich, United Kingdom  
 2013 *The Edge of Painting*, The Piper Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2013 *Drawings: Mel Bochner, Robert Holyhead, Ann-Marie James, Tess Jaray, Bridget Riley, Alison Wilding, Karsten Schubert*, London, United Kingdom  
 2013 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2012 *New Possibilities: Abstract Painting from the Seventies*, The Piper Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2012 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2012 *Synthesis*, Peppercanister Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
 2011 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK The Shape of Things, Ferrate Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 2010 *Layers: John Moores Painting Prize Retrospective*, Seongnam Cultural Foundation, Seongnam, Korea  
 2010 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2009 *The Rise of Women Artists*, Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, United Kingdom  
 2009 *Jerwood Drawing Prize*, Jerwood Space, London, United Kingdom  
 2009 *Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom  
 2008 *Contact*, 79a Brick Lane, London, United Kingdom  
 2008 *Arts Futures*, Contemporary Arts Society, Bloomberg Space, London, United Kingdom  
 2008 *Exacting Standards*, Lemon Street Gallery, Cornwall, United Kingdom  
 2007 *Repetition & Sequence*, Jerwood Space, London, United Kingdom  
 2007 *Sequence & Repetition*, Brunel Arts Centre, Brunel University, London, United Kingdom  
 2006 *Summer Exhibition*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2005 *Private View: Forty Years On*, Rocket Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2005 *Summer Exhibition*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2004 *Visual Rhythms*, Bury St Edmunds Art Gallery, Suffolk, United Kingdom  
 2003 *Summer Exhibition*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 2002 *Out of Line: Drawings from the Arts Council Collection*, Winfield Arts, Suffolk; ArtSway, Sway, and Burton Art Gallery, Bideford, United Kingdom  
 2002 *Summer Exhibition*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 1998 *Small is Beautiful*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom  
 1996 *British Abstract Art Part III: Drawing*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom  
 1994 *British Abstract Art Part I: Painting*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom  
 1993 *The Sixties Art Scene in London*, Barbican Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 1992 *Women's Art, New Hall Art Collection*, New Hall College, Cambridge, United Kingdom  
 1992 *Small is Beautiful Part IX: Abstract*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom  
 1991 *New Meanings for City Centres*, Birmingham Galleries and Museums, Birmingham, United Kingdom  
 1990 *The Abstract Print Show*, Flowers East, London, United Kingdom  
 1989 *Approaches to Public Art*, Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, United Kingdom  
 1989 *A Spiritual Dimension*, Peterborough Art Museum and Gallery, Peterborough, United Kingdom  
 1988 *The Presence of Painting: Aspects of British Abstraction*, Mappin Gallery, Sheffield, United Kingdom  
 1988 *Athena Art Awards*, Barbican Art Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
 1987 *Inaugural Exhibition*, Patricia Knight Fine Art, London, United Kingdom  
 1986 *9th British International Print Biennale*, Bradford City Art Gallery, Bradford, United Kingdom  
 1986 *The Unbroken Line: 50 Years of British Drawing 1936–86*, Gillian Jason Gallery, London, United Kingdom

- 1985 *Holdings: 4th Biennale of European Graphic Art*, Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Baden-Baden, Germany
- 1985 *One Percent*, Levitt Bernstein Associates, London, United Kingdom
- 1982 *80 Prints by Modern Masters*, Angela Flowers Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1982 *Women's Art Show*, Castle Museum, Nottingham, United Kingdom
- 1981 *Artists in Camden*, Camden Arts Centre, London, United Kingdom
- 1979 *6th British International Print Biennale*, Bradford City Art Gallery, United Kingdom
- 1979 *Painting Exhibition*, Felicity Samuel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1978 *Hayward Annual*, Hayward Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1977 *Miniatures Exhibition*, Coracle Press, London, United Kingdom
- 1977 *British Artists of the Sixties*, Tate Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1976 *The Deck of Cards*, JPL Fine Art, London, United Kingdom
- 1974 *British Painting 1974*, Hayward Gallery, London, U United Kingdom
- 1973 *Seven from London*, Kunsthalle, Bern, Germany
- 1970 *3rd Salon International de Galeries Pilotes: Artistes et Découvreurs de Notre Temps Musé*, Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, Lausanne, Switzerland and Musée d'Arts, Paris, France
- 1969 *Fine Art for Industry*, Royal College of Art, London, United Kingdom
- 1969 *Recent British Prints*, IBM Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 1968 *Junge Generation Grossbritannien*, Die Akademie der Kunst, Berlin, Germany
- 1968 *Grabados de Artistas Britanicos: Nuevas Tendencias*, Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Literatura, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1968 *67th International Biennale of Prints*, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1967 *British Gouaches and Prints*, Sundsvall Museum, Sundsvall, Sweden
- 1967 *The 9th International Art Exhibition of Japan*, Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- 1967 Transatlantic Graphics
- 1967 Camden Arts Centre, London, United Kingdom
- 1967 *Recent British Painting: Peter Stuyvesant Foundation Collection*, Tate Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1967 *British Painting and Sculpture from the Collection of Leicestershire Education Authority*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1966 *London Under Forty*, Galleria Milano, Milan, Italy; The Musée du Louvre, Paris, France; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart and Kunsthalle Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 1965 *Trends in Contemporary British Painting*, Bear Lane Gallery, Oxford, United Kingdom
- 1965 *Op and Pop: Current English Art*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1964 *Painting Towards Environment*, Bear Lane Gallery, Oxford; Arts Council Gallery, Cambridge; Sussex University, Sussex and Arts Council Gallery, Cardiff, United Kingdom
- 1962 *Nine Painters from England: Ayres, Cohen, Coviello, Denny, House, Hoyland, Jaray, Turnbull, Vaux*, Galleria Trastevere, Rome, Italy
- 1961 *Neue Malerei in England*, Städtische Museum, Leverkusen, Germany
- 1959 *London Group*, The Royal Society of British Artists Galleries, London, United Kingdom

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## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, UK  
 Arts Council Collection, London, UK Centre Pompidou, Paris, France Contemporary Art Society, London, UK Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield, UK Mumok, Vienna, Austria  
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Serbia Museum des 20 Jahrhunderts, Vienna, Austria  
 Städtisches Museum, Leverkusen, Germany Sundsvall Museum, Sundsvall, Sweden  
 Szépművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, Croatia  
 The British Council, London, UK  
 The British Museum, London, UK  
 The Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, MA, US  
 The Sainsbury Centre, Norwich, UK  
 The Tate Collection, London, UK  
 The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK  
 University College London, London, UK  
 Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, UK  
 Western Australia Art Gallery, Perth, Australia Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, UK Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum, Worcester, UK

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