

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

LEON KOSSOFF: *A Life in Painting*

January 13 – March 5, 2022

534 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY



Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present *Leon Kossoff: A Life in Painting*, a major touring exhibition of paintings by the British artist **Leon Kossoff** (1926-2019), curated by Andrea Rose. The exhibition, which includes sixteen paintings that span the breadth of the artist's career and represent his most celebrated subjects, has been organized in concert with the publication of *Leon Kossoff: Catalogue Raisonné of the Oil Paintings*.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash has represented Leon Kossoff since 2000. *A Life in Painting* is the artist's fifth solo exhibition at the gallery, and the first posthumous solo exhibition. The exhibition travels to New York from Annelly Juda Fine Art, London, and is presented concurrently at L.A. Louver, Los Angeles (January 26 – March 26, 2022); it marks the third collaborative exhibition of Kossoff's work shared by this trio of galleries, following *Leon Kossoff: London Landscapes* and *Leon Kossoff: Recent Works*, (2013-2014 and 2010-2011, respectively).

Leon Kossoff is recognized as one of the world's greatest Post-War figurative painters with an appreciation of life's everyday activities, finding poignancy and beauty in seemingly mundane urban settings. Having lived his lifetime in London (from which he rarely traveled), his paintings of his native city are rendered with the familiarity of a close friend. Complicated, sometimes bleak, but always vital and teeming with activity, Kossoff's paintings reflected London's transformation, stretching from post-war desolation to international affluence towards the end of the 20th century.

"Kossoff's singularity – his ability to turn the ordinary circumstances of life into grand and momentous experiences – animates his work throughout ... It is as if he were fashioning a new sort of painting from earth and clay, and in a reversal of usual norms, turning abstraction into form rather than form into abstraction." – Andrea Rose, former Director of Visual Art at the British Council

In addition to London landscapes, the exhibition includes portraits of the painter's father, his wife Peggy (also known as Rosalind), his painter friend John Lessore, and several self-portraits. In all these works, Kossoff searches for a way to bring myriad experiences together in a single image, every brushstroke telling the story of doubt and opportunity that went into their making, all of them threatening to dissolve into fleeting abstraction at any given moment.

Leon Kossoff's deeply felt, intimate depictions of his beloved family, friends, and native London place him as one of the 20th century's most important figurative painters. Solo exhibitions worldwide include *Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting*, National Gallery, London, 2007; *Leon Kossoff: Selected Paintings, 1956-2000*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark, 2004- 2005 (traveled to Museum of Art Lucerne, Switzerland, 2005); a major retrospective at the Tate Gallery, London, 1996, and representing Britain in the

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XLVI Venice Biennale, 1995 (traveled to Düsseldorf Kunstverein, and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 1995-1996). Kossoff's works can be found in important institutional collections worldwide, including Los Angeles County Museum of Art, J. Paul Getty Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Jewish Museum, New York, NY; Art Institute of Chicago, IL; Cleveland Museum of Art, OH; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Tate, National Portrait Gallery, British Council, British Museum, UK; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of Southern Australia, Australian National Gallery, Australia; Louisiana Museum, Denmark; Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection, Spain.

A fully illustrated catalogue, *Leon Kossoff: A Life in Painting*, has been published on the occasion of the exhibition and includes an introduction by curator Andrea Rose, former Director of Visual Art at the British Council.

*Leon Kossoff: Catalogue Raisonné of the Oil Paintings* is edited by Andrea Rose and published by Modern Art Press, London. It includes texts by Rose and Dr. Barnaby Wright (Deputy Head of The Courtauld Gallery and Daniel Katz Curator of 20th Century Art, The Courtauld), as well as an extensive chronology, exhibition history, public collections list, and selected bibliography.

For more information about or to purchase these publications, please contact Mitchell-Innes & Nash directly.

## About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day. Lucy Mitchell-Innes is also a member of the selection committee of Art Basel and a former president of the Art Dealers Association of America.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Nancy Graves, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Eddie Martinez, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

**Image credit:** Leon Kossoff, *Christ Church, Spitalfields, Early Summer*, 1992, oil on board, 71 ¾ by 48 in. (182.2 by 121.9 cm). © The Artist's Estate. Courtesy Annelly Juda Fine Art, London; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; and LA Louver, Los Angeles.

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