

DONALD MITCHELL

Born 1951, San Francisco, California

Mitchell's work began with dense abstract and cross-hatched fields of black lines or brush strokes that obliterated the paper and hid any trace of underlying image. Over time, Mitchell slowly uncovered the faces and forms buried in the darkness. His work then became populated by multiple figures that were autonomous or overlapping, and whose relationships became both dependent and independent of each other. These figures are consistently depicted with a large round head with simplified facial features on top of a thick body with peg-like arms and legs. Sometimes they are stacked so densely they resemble totems, and other times only a face rises to the surface in a field of dense line work. Mitchell's most recent work maintains the foundations of these anonymous figures, but has returned to large scale abstraction with late-career artist's skill.

Mitchell's work has been exhibited at Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne; Gavin Brown's enterprise, Cavin-Morris, RiccolMaresca, and Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco; Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley; Jennifer Lauren Gallery, London; and is included in the permanent collection of the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Selected exhibitions:

- 2023: *Beautiful Peace on Earth: Selections from Creative Growth*, Diane Rosenstein Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2022: *Creative Growth Art Center: Selections from the Collection*, Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL
- 2021: *Can't Beat California*, Golestani Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany
Vibrant, Nina Johnson, Miami, FL
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
4x8-bridges, online exhibition, 8-bridges
- 2020: Outsider Art Fair, New York
Monochromatic Minds, Jennifer Lauren Gallery, London
Inter-Avant-Garde, Roger Center for Fine Arts, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln
Art Paris, online exhibition
Art Brut Global, Outsider Art Fair, online exhibition
- 2019: Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
Mangkaja & Creative Growth: Meeting Places, Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland, CA
Outsider Art Fair, Paris, France
CE x CG x NIAD, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA
- 2018: Outsider Art Fair NY, represented by Creative Growth Art Center, New York, NY
New Art Dealers Alliance Fair, New York

- D'Dessin Art Fair, Paris, France
Visual Oasis: Works from Creative Growth, Carson City, NV
- 2017: D'Dessin Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Paris, France
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
- 2016: Duvel Moortgat Fund, MADmusée Liège, Belgium
New Art Dealers Alliance Fair, Miami, FL
American Dream, Direct Art Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany
Outsider Art Fair, Paris, France
Large Drawings, Home, 836M, San Francisco, CA
Casale Monferrato Castle, Italy
Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
The Fabio Cei Collection, Creative Growth Arts Center, Oakland, CA
Art Osaka, Osaka, Japan
D'Dessin Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Paris, France
- 2015: *Vis-à-vis*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
D'Dessin Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Paris, France
Groupings, Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland, CA
Art Fair Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan
The Great Escape, Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland, CA
Extra Celestial, Crosstown Art, Memphis, TN
- 2014: *Mental Contours III. — Lines of Force*, Artinbox Gallery, Prague, Czechia
Outsider Art Fair, Paris, France
Vice + Virtue, Creative Growth Art Center, Oakland, CA
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
Faces and Figures in Self-Taught Art, The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
D'Dessin Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Paris, France
- 2013: Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
Creative Growth, Galerie Art Cru, Berlin, Germany
Creative Growth, Park Life Gallery, San Francisco, CA
D'Dessin Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Paris, France
Almost Home, Diego Rivera Gallery (SFAI), San Francisco, CA
Margins to Mainstream: Contemporary Artists with Disabilities, Sonoma County Museum, Santa Rosa, CA
Outsider Artists, Oakland Museum of California at the Oakland International Airport, Oakland, CA
- 2012: Cutlog Art Fair, Paris, France
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
Independent Art Fair, New York, NY
Frieze Art Fair, New York, NY
D'Dessin Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Paris, France

- Creative Growth*, Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York, NY
Inside out, Galleri NordNorge, Harstad, Norway
Different and Special, Gyeonggi Museum of Modern Art, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea
John Hiltunen + I, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, CA
- 2011: *Revealed*, Galerie Drylewicz, Paris, France
New Art Dealers Association Fair, Miami, FL
Insider/Outsider Art: Selections from Bay Area Collections, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
Exhibition #4, Museum of Everything, London, England
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
Manhattan House, New York, NY
- 2010: *Visions of Paradise*, Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, Sonoma, CA
Georg Jensen, New York
Outsider Art Fair, New York
In The House, MadMusée, Belgium
- 2009: Galerie Giti Nourbakhsh, Berlin
Revealing the Human, Arts Project, Melbourne
Again and Again, Galerie Impaire, Paris
Outsider Art Fair, New York
Faith and Fantasy in Outsider Art from the Permanent Collection, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
- 2008: Intuit Show of Folk and Outsider Art, Chicago
Biel de Arte Contemporaneo Funcacion Once, Madrid, Spain
Queens Nails Annex, San Francisco, CA
- 2007: Jack Hanley Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
abcd art brut, Paris, France
Observer Event, New York, NY
- 2006: Jack Hanley Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Berenberg Gallery, Boston, MA
Visionary Output: Work by Creative Growth Artists, Rena Bransten Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
Armory Art Fair, New York, NY
Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY
- 2005: New Art Dealers Association Fair, Miami, FL
Intuit Fair of Folk and Outsider Art, Chicago, IL
White Columns, New York, NY
Leon Borenzstein and His Friends: A Look At Creative Growth Artists and Their Work, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA

2004: Outsider Art Fair, New York, NY

2003: Group Exhibition, Lucky Tackle Gallery, Oakland, CA

Publications:

Johnson, Ken. "Creative Growth," New York Times, July 5, 2012.

Cheryl Rivers, Tom di Maria, Lucienne Peiry, Frank Maresca, Lyle Rexer and Colin Rhodes. *Donald Mitchell – Right Here Right Now*, Creative Growth Center, Oakland, 2004.

"Donald Mitchell," *Raw Vision #42*, Spring 2003.