Kaari Upson
Biography

Kaari Upson (San Bernardino, 1972 – New York, 2021) was an American artist based in Los Angeles. Her practice encompassed drawing, painting, sculpture, and video. Deeply rooted in personal experience, her work explored physical and psychological trauma, the uncanny, domestic life, and the blurred boundaries between fiction and memory. Her solo exhibitions include: *Kaari Upson*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (2025); *Kaari Upson: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2023); *Never Enough*, Deste Foundation, Athens (2022); *Clay Baby*, Pièce Unique, Paris (2021); *Go Back the Way You Came*, Kunsthalle Basel (2019); *Good Thing You Are Not Alone*, New Museum, New York (2017); *The Los Angeles Project*, UCCA, Beijing (2014); *One On One*, SITE Santa Fe, California (2010); *Hammer Projects*, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2007); *The Larry Project, Chapter 2: The Honeymoon Period*, D301 Gallery, California Institute of the Arts (2007).

Her work was also included in numerous group exhibitions, including: *Medardo Rosso. Inventing Modern Sculpture*, Kunstmuseum Basel (2025); *For Dear Life: Art, Medicine, and Disability*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (2024); *She Said, She Said: Contemporary Artists from the Rubell Museum*, Arlington Museum of Art (2024); *Day for Night: New American Realism*, Palazzo Barberini, Rome (2024); *If not now, when?*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague (2024); *Weight of Mind*, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College (2024); *Transmissions: Selections from the Marciano Collection*, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles (2024); *Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary*, The Lewis Glucksman Gallery (2023); *Your Home Is Where You're Happy*, Haus Mödrath (2023); *Chrysalis: The Butterfly Dream*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva (2023); *Inaugural Exhibition, Season One*, Start Museum, Shanghai (2023); Venice Biennale, Venice (2022, 2019); Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2017); *Full Moon*, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar (2016); *Sleepless: The Bed in History and Contemporary Art*, 21er Haus, Vienna (2015); *Second Chances*, Aspen Art Museum (2015); *Procession*, CAPC Musée d'art Contemporain, Bordeaux (2014); *Inner Journeys*, Maison Particulière Art Centre, Brussels (2013); *Test Pattern*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2013); *The Residue of Memory*, Aspen Art Museum (2012); *American Exuberance*, Rubell Family Collection, Miami (2011); *George Herms: Xenophilia (Love of the Unknown)*, MOCA Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles (2011); *Involuntary*, Ford Project, New York (2011); *Nine Lives*, curated by Ali Subotnick, Hammer Museum, California (2009); *Sack of Bones*, curated by Ellen Langan and Blair Taylor, Peres Projects, Los Angeles (2008).

Solo exhibitions

2025

2025 - Dollhouse – A Retrospective, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, DK

2023

2023 - Kaari Upson: Selections from the Hammer Contemporary Collection, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA

2022

2022 - On Kaari Upson: Leslie Dick and Audrey Wollen in Conversation, Sprüth Magers, Los Angeles, USA
2022 - Never Enough, Deste Foundation, Athens, GR

2021

2021 - Clay Baby (m.l.), MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2019

2019 - Go Back the Way You Came, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
2019 - Go Back the Way You Came, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
2019 - Door, Open, Shut, Kunstverein Hannover, Hannover, D

2018

2018 - In Search Of The Perfect Double, Torre Velasca, Milano, I

2017

2017 - Good Thing You Are Not Alone, New Museum, New York, USA. Catalogue

2016

2016 - MMDP, Sprüth Magers, Berlin, D. Catalogue

2015

2015 - HOLE, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2014

2014 - Kaari Upson, Ramiken Crucible, New York, USA

2013

2013 - Sleep With the Key, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I

2012

2012 - Baby Please come Home, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2011

2011 - Kaari Upson, Overduin and Kite, Los Angeles, USA
2011 - Statements, Overduin and Kite, Art 42, Basilea, CH

2009

2009 - I am bound to have some anxiety about this so please if I say stop, don't stop, Maccarone Gallery, New York, USA

2007

2007 - Hammer Projects, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA
2007 - The Larry Project, Chapter 2: The Honeymoon Period, D301 Gallery; California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, USA

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Tea and Dry Biscuits. An Anniversary Exhibition, Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin, D
2025 - Medardo Rosso. Inventing Modern Sculpture , Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, CH

2024

2024 - For Dear Life: Art, Medicine, and Disability, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego, USA
2024 - Transmissions: Selections from the Marciano Collection, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, USA
2024 - Sleep! , Kunsthal KAdE, Amersfoort, NL
2024 - Weight of Mind, Hessel Museum of Art, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, USA
2024 - If not now, when?, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Den Haag, NL
2024 - She Said, She Said: Contemporary Artists from the Rubell Museum, Arlington Museum of Art , Arlington, USA

2023

2023 - Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary, The Lewis Glucksman Gallery, Cork, UK
2023 - Chrysalis: The Butterfly Dream, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Genève, CH
2023 - Your Home Is Where You're Happy, Haus Mödrath - Räume für Kunst, Kerpen, D

2022

2022 - Dark Light, Realism in the Age of Post truth, Aishti Foudation, Beirut,
2022 - Everything was beautiful, and nothing hurt, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, USA
2022 - Pupille. Ci fioriscono gli occhi se ci guardiamo, curated by Rita Selvaggio, Casa Masaccio Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, San Giovanni Valdarno, I
2022 - Shifting the Silence, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA
2022 - 59. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte, La Biennale di Venezia, Venezia, I. Catalogue
2022 - The Milk of Dreams, 59. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte, Venezia, I. Catalogue
2022 - Perris, Tyler Park Presents, Los Angeles, USA
2022 - ECHO, The Artist Room, London, UK
2022 - Inaugural Exhibition, Season One, Start Museum, Shanghai, PRC
2022 - Raw Nerves, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK
2022 - Work from Home: Rebecca Acroyd, Heidi Bucher, Emily Moore, Kaari Upson, Siegfried Contemporary, London, UK
2022 - Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK
2022 - Perspectives of a Collection, Taking Stock and Looking Ahead, Marta Herford, Herford, D

2021

2021 - Bodywork: Discomfort and Existence, MASSIMODECARLO, Milano, I
2021 - Mother!, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, DK

2019

2019 - MCMXXXIV, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I
2019 - May You Live In Interesting Times, 58. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte, Venezia, I. Catalogue

2018

2018 - The artist is present, curated by Maurizio Cattelan, YUZ Museum, Shanghai, PRC. Catalogue

2017

2017 - Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
2017 - Man Alive, curated by Wendy White, Maruani Mercier Gallery, Bruxelles, B. Catalogue
2017 - A Good Neighbour. 15th Istanbul Biennial, curated by Elmgreen & Dragset, Istanbul foundation for culture and arts, Istanbul, TR
2017 - Material Concerns and Current Practices, Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, New York, USA
2017 - Concrete Island, Venus, Los Angeles, USA
2017 - Unpacking: The Marciano Collection, Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles, USA

2016

2016 - No Man's Land: Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection, National Museum of Women in the Art, Washington; Rubell Family Collection, Miami, Miami, USA
2016 - Los Angeles - A Fiction, curated by Gunnar B. Kvaran, Thierry Raspail, Nicolas Garait-Leavenworth, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Ali Subotnick, Alex Israel, Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, N
2016 - Revolution in the Making: Abstract Sculpture by Women, 1947 2016, Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles, USA
2016 - Adhesive Products, Kunsthall, Bergen, N
2016 - Self, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK
2016 - Full Moon, Museum Voorlinden, Wassenaar, NL

2015

2015 - Second Chances, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, USA
2015 - New Skin, Aïshti Foundation, Beirut, RL. Catalogue
2015 - Panorama, The High Line, New York, USA
2015 - Young Americans, Franz Josefs Kai 3, Wien, A
2015 - Sleepless: The Bed in History and Contemporary Art, 21er Haus, Wien, A

2014

2014 - HOME/SCULPTURE, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK
2014 - Procession, CAPC Musèe d'art contemporain , Bordeaux, F
2014 - The Los Angeles Project, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art , Beijing, PRC
2014 - Golden State, MOCA, Tucson, USA
2014 - Maximalism, Contemporary Fine Arts, Berlin, D
2014 - Veils, Underground Museum, Los Angeles, USA
2014 - CalArts Art Benefit and Auction, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, USA

2013

2013 - Transforming the Known: Works from the Bert Kreuk Collection, Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag, NL
2013 - Mixed Message Media, curated by Neville Wakefield, Gladston Gallery, New York 24th Street, USA
2013 - Recent Acquisitions, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, USA
2013 - FLICKER, Control Room, Los Angeles, USA
2013 - Endless Bummer II/Still Bummin, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, USA
2013 - Passive Aggressive, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I
2013 - CULM, Night Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2013 - Test Pattern, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA

2012

2012 - The Residue of Memory, curated by Heidi Zuckerman, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, USA

2011

2011 - Are You Glad to Be in America?, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I
2011 - George Herms: Xenophilia (Love of the Unknown), MOCA, Los Angeles, USA
2011 - OH!, curated by Massimo De Carlo, Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris, F
2011 - Involuntary, curated by Neville Wakefield, Ford Project, New York, USA
2011 - American Exuberance, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA. Catalogue

2010

2010 - One On One, SITE, Santa Fe, USA
2010 - How Soon Now, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA. Catalogue
2010 - Psycho Painting - Gerhard Richter EXTRA CONTENT: Psycho sculpture DAVID ADAMO, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2009

2009 - Nine Lives, curated by Ali Subotnick, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA. Catalogue
2009 - Chinese Box, Overduin and Kite, Los Angeles, USA
2009 - Berlin - Los Angeles. A Tale of Two (Other) Cities , curated by Elena Tavecchia, Massimo De Carlo, Milano, I. Catalogue

2008

2008 - Sack of Bones, curated by Ellen Langan e Blair Taylor, Peres Projects, Los Angeles, USA
2008 - Pretty Ugly, curated by Alison Gingeras, Gavin Brown's Enterprise; Maccarone, New York, USA

2007

2007 - Internal Mechanisms, High Energy Constructs, Los Angeles, USA
2007 - Exquisite Acts & Everyday Rebellions, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, USA
2007 - The Juice is Loose...A Big Painting Show, 507 Rose, Venice, USA

- Hollow Earth: Art, Caves & The Subterranean Imaginary, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK

Bibliography

2021

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2019

"Kaari Upson", *ArtReview*, n. 71 no. 6, September 2019, pp. 44-45.
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2017

Ashfaque, Rabia. "Kaari Upson: Good Thing You Are Not Alone", *The Brooklyn Rail*, 2017.
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2016

"L.A. Habitat: Kaari Upson", *Art News*, 13 May 2016.
"The Cut: 11 Artists Poised to have breakout years in 2016", *New York Magazine*, April/may 2016, 67.
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2015

"Kaari Upson – Castration Anxiety", *Neue Journal*, 2015.
"Kaari Upson", *Pin-Up*, n. 19, Fall/winter 2015.
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Roselione-Valadez, Juan. "No Man's Land: Women Artists from the Rubell Family Collection", *Miami: Rubell Family Collection*, 2015.
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2014

Fogle, Douglas. "Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Bette", *Flash Art International*, January/February 2014.
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2013

Gnyp, Marta. "Everything is in the Blind Spot", *Zoo Magazine*, n. 40, 2013.

2012

Griffin, Jonathan. "Life Study", *frieze*, n. 145, March 2012, pp. 118-123.

2011

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2010

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2009

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2008

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Public Collections

Denmark

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk

France

CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux

Germany

Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim
Marta Herford Museum for Art, Architecture, Design, Herford

Greece

Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens

Lebanon

Aïshti Foundation, Beirut

The Netherlands

Gemeentemuseum, The Hague
Voorlinden Museum, Wassenaar

United States of America

Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh
Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami
Marciano Art Foundation, Los Angeles
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Pérez Art Museum Miami
Rubell Collection, Miami
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis
Whitney Museum of Art, New York