

## Paulina Peavy

Born 1901, Colorado City, CO; Died 1999, Bethesda, MD.

In 1932, Paulina Peavy (1901 – 1999) attended a séance at the home of Ida L. Ewing in Santa Ana, California, where she claims to have met a spirit/UFO from another world named Lacamo. From that moment forward, Peavy, a university-trained artist, painted with a brush that “moved on its own.” Peavy’s artistic path centered around her convening with beings and forces beyond the visible plane to create her work. Paulina Peavy was born in 1901 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She graduated from Oregon State College (OSC) in 1923 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Education; she completed studies equivalent to an MA at the Chouinard School of Fine Art in Los Angeles before it became a degree-granting institution, and eventually was absorbed into the present-day CalArts.

Peavy’s roots in California, where she lived and painted from 1923 to 1943, were deeply embedded in the emerging abstract art scene of the 1920s, where enthusiastic explorations of the occult were embraced. She was a student of Hans Hofmann at Chouinard and joined the circle of California’s first Surrealists led by Lorser Feitelson. Her professional and social circles included members of the occult-inclined Group of Eight as well as Synchronists, who formed the first abstract art movement in America. Beginning in the late 1920s, Peavy played a vital role in the emerging West Coast art scene: she established a gallery, school, and salon under her name, where she conducted her own classes. She also hosted classes of the foundational Los Angeles Art Students League and showed these artists’ works alongside her own. Her legacy in the emerging West Coast art scene was almost forgotten, in part because she moved to New York City when the West Coast art scene was gaining its most influential chroniclers; in addition, her cosmology was considered too radical for mainstream culture to accept.

While in California Peavy showed at some of the most significant galleries of her time, including the Stendahl Gallery in Los Angeles. She was included in the opening of the San Francisco Art Association Annual group show which opened in January 1935 at San Francisco Museum of Art (now SFMOMA) and thirty of her paintings were exhibited during the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-40 at the Temple of Religion.

Peavy was encouraged to move to Manhattan after the positive response to her 1935 exhibit at Delphic Studios in New York City, a gallery that exhibited work by other important occultist painters. Many of Peavy’s painted panels from the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition (some at 72”x42”) were also exhibited in New York. And it is in New York where Peavy more fully realized her complex cosmology, including the revelation of the secrets of the universe from Lacamo, secrets that became the subject matter of her art, costume, poetry, films, and manuscripts. Peavy wrote numerous manuscripts describing her cosmology, with *My Life With a U.F.O.* from the 1980s as the most detailed account. Over time, she developed a belief that the world evolved in 12,000-year cycles that are broken down into four 3,000-year periods, each of which corresponds to one of the four seasons. She predicted that in the 3,000-year Summer Age, the last of which occurred during the reign of the Egyptian pharaohs, people will become spirits of UFOs, inhabiting the universe as invisible atoms or electronic beams that can take on different forms when descending to Earth from the far reaches of the universe. Her manuscripts and films explain Peavy’s complex intersection of a utopian future accomplished through the dissolution of gender.

Peavy lived and worked in New York from 1943 until close to the end of her life. She died in Bethesda, Maryland in 1999, at the age of 98, a witness to nearly the entire twentieth century.

Paulina Peavy’s work was featured in the 1936 exhibition *Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and a selection of thirty of her paintings were shown at the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco in 1939. Past solo exhibitions include *Paulina Peavy: An Etherian Channeler*, curated by Laura Whitcomb, at *Beyond Baroque* in Venice, California (2021), *Paulina Peavy: Astrocultural Messenger*, at Andrew Edlin Gallery (2023), and *Paulina Peavy (2025)* at Emanuela Campoli, Paris. *Paulina Peavy: Etherian Channeler*, a monograph written by Whitcomb, was published in 2023.

Her art is included in the permanent collections of the the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the National Gallery, Oregon State University, the Portland Museum of Art, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

## EDUCATION

1919-23

Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Education, Oregon State College  
(Oregon State University), OR

1927-1932

Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, CA

1932-42

Art Educator, Board of Education, Los Angeles and Long Beach, CA

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

*Paulina Peavy*, Emanuela Campoli, Paris, FR

2023

*Paulina Peavy: Astrocultural Messenger*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2022

*Paulina Peavy*, The ADAA Art Show, Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY

2021

*Paulina Peavy: An Etherian Channeler*, curated by Laura Whitcomb, Beyond Baroque, Venice, CA

2019

*Paulina Peavy/Lacamo: They Call us Unidentified*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2018

*Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina*, Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), Reston, VA

2016

*Paulina Peavy: The Artist Behind the Mask*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2003

Exhibition of paintings, New Morning Bakery, Corvallis, OR

2002

Exhibition at Corvallis-Benton County Public Library, Corvallis, OR

1961

Exhibition at Crown Gallery, New York, NY

1956

Exhibition of twenty-three paintings, Lacamo Gallery, New York, NY

1946

*Genesis, Atomic Forces of Nature*, Lawrence Terzian Gallery, New York, NY  
Paintings in rotunda of Roxy Theater, New York, NY

1945

Exhibition of paintings at Jurart Gallery, New York, NY

1944

Exhibition of paintings at Staten Island Museum, Staten Island, NY

1943

*Paulina Peavy*, Argent Gallery, New York, NY

1942

Special exhibition of last supper mural accompanied by public lecture and music, private residence, Long Beach, CA

1941

Debut exhibition of last supper mural, San Diego Fine Arts Gallery (now San Diego Museum of Art)

1939

Exhibition of thirty paintings, Temple of Religion, Golden Gate International Exposition, Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA

1935

Exhibition at Delphic Studios, New York, NY

Exhibition at Gumps Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Exhibition at Stendahl Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

1934

Exhibition at Stanford University Art Gallery, Stanford, CA

Exhibition at Gumps Gallery, San Francisco, CA

1930

Watercolors at Peavy Studio of Art and Architecture, San Pedro, CA

## **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

2026

*Recursions*, Emanuela Campoli, Zurich, CH

2025

*Big other*, Chateau Shatto, Los Angeles, CA

*Voice of Space: UFOs and Paranormal Phenomena*, The Drawing Center, New York, NY

*In a dark time, the eye begins to see*, curated by Robert Cozzolino, Andrew Edlin Gallery, NY

*Fata Morgana: Memories of the Invisible*, curated by Massimiliano Gioni, Daniel Birnbaum, and Marta Papini, conceived and produced by the Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Palazzo Morando, Milan, IT.

*The Medium is the Message*, The College of Psychic Studies, London, UK

2024

Modern Art presentation on BCAM, Level 3, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

*Open Ended: SFMOMA's Collection, 1900 to Now*, SFMOMA, CA

*Lavinia*, Hannah Hoffman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2021

*Greater New York 2021*, MoMA PS1, New York, NY

*Supernatural America: The Paranormal in American Art*, curated by Robert Cozzolino, Toledo Museum of Art, OH, Speed Museum, KY and Minneapolis Institute of Art, MN

2018

*April 14, 1561*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

*Duende, Artists Translation Spirits*, Cavin-Morris Gallery, New York, NY

2017

*Clestial Mechanics*, Artworks Advisory, New York, NY

1967

Display of art and poetry at convention of the Congress of Scientific Ufologists, Hotel Commodore, New York, NY

1948

American Cancer Society display, Fifth Avenue department store windows, New York, NY

1945

Summer group show, Jurart Gallery, New York, NY

1936

Independent Artists Group, Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, CA

Independent Artists Group, Stendahl Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Annual Exhibition, Foundation of Western Art, Los Angeles, CA

July group show, Stendahl Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles (Annual Exhibition), Los Angeles County Museum, CA

1935

Painters & Sculptors of Los Angeles (Annual Exhibition), Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, CA

May group show, Palos Verdes Library, Palos Verdes Estates, CA

Annual sculpture exhibition, Palos Verdes Library, Palos Verdes Estates, CA

San Francisco Art Association Annual Exhibition, San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, CA

1934

Group watercolor show, Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, CA

1933

Professional Juried Division, Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, CA

Annual Exhibition, Laguna Beach Art Association, Laguna Beach, CA

1927

Eisteddfod art exhibition, San Pedro, CA

## **AWARDS**

1985

Bronze medal at the 28th Annual International Film & TV Festival of New York,

## The Artist Behind the Mask

1984

Silver Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York for *Male Sex*

1983

Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, *Is the Moon a Burned-out Sun*

1982

Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, *Mountain of Myrrh*

1981

Bronze Award at the International Film & TV Festival of New York, *Paulina, Artist-Philosopher, An Artist of Vision*

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2023

Whitcomb, Laura. *Paulina Peavy: Etherian Channeler*, Andrew Edlin Gallery.

2019

Kaplowitz, Jane. "Best of 2019: Artists' Artists," *Artforum*

O'Neill-Butler, Lauren. "Paulina Peavy and Lacamo," *Artforum*

Rudick, Nicole. "Art on a Higher Frequency: Paulina Peavy Attended a Séance and Tuned into the Future," *Art in America*

Deters, Alexandria. "Spirituality in Insanity, Revelation from Beyond; Paulina Peavy and Lacamo's Cosmic Interpretations at Andrew Edlin Gallery," *eazel*.

2018

Jenkins, Mark. "Paulina Peavy's postcards from the cosmos," *The Washington Post*

1958

Nebel, Long John, WOR Radio interview, New York, NY

1946

Madra, Margaret. "In Awe of Creative Powers, Impressionistic Painter of Biblical Parable Has Theories on Atom," *Brooklyn Eagle*

1943

Riley, Maud. "Electronics' in Paint," *Art Digest*

"Mystic Symbolism," *The New York Times*.

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN

National Gallery, Washington DC

Oregon State University, Covallis, OR

Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA