

Paulina Peavy

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

In 1932, Paulina Peavy attended a séance at the home of Ida L. Ewing in Santa Ana, California, where she claims to have met a UFO named Lacamo, a spirit from another world. From that moment forward Peavy, a university-trained artist, painted with a brush that “moved on its own.” In order to better channel Lacamo’s energies, Peavy also constructed and wore masks when she painted, occasionally signing her works with Lacamo’s name alongside her own.

Peavy said she learned the secrets of the universe from Lacamo, secrets that became the subject matter of her art. 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 corresponding to the four seasons. Key to Peavy’s philosophy is a belief in reincarnation, and after experiencing a 3,000-year Summer Age, the last of which occurred during the reign of the Egyptian pharaohs, people become spirits, or 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.

Peavy’s entire life was dedicated to promoting her worldview and various philosophies through drawing, painting, sculpture, text and film. Her works on paper, in particular, depict the artist’s individualized visual cosmos using shapes that resemble energy beams, solar systems, and procreative organic shapes signifying genitalia, ova, fallopian tubes, sperm, and fetuses. Peavy’s life and work were constantly evolving to reflect her belief in mankind’s evolution to an androgynous one-sex through contact with aliens.

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 and completed her MA at the Chouinard School of Fine Art in Los Angeles. As an artist Peavy lived in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California from 1932 to 1942, and later moved to New York City. She died in 1999 at age 98, having witnessed nearly the entire 20th Century. Her work was most notably featured at the 1939 San Francisco Exposition where she painted a fourteen foot mural titled The Eternal Supper, depicting her own philosophical belief in the one-gender perfection.

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

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

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 PSI, 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, (Group Exhibition) 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

<https://youtu.be/v8piJgSijHo?t=2h28m20s>

<https://youtu.be/v8piJgSijHo?t=3h13m26s>

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