

Artist Resources – Serge Poliakoff (Russian-French, 1900-1969)

[Poliakoff at the Guggenheim](#)

[Poliakoff at the Tate](#)

[Poliakoff at Cheim & Read](#)



Poliakoff, 1954
Photograph: Denise Colomb

In 2007, [Serge Poliakoff: A Retrospective Homage to Peter Ade](#) was on view at the Kunsthalle München. Read the exhibition leaflet available on the museum's [website](#).

The Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris installed [Serge Poliakoff: The Dream of Forms](#) in 2013. The exhibition was a large-scale retrospective of 70 paintings and works on paper created between 1936 and 1969. Read extensive reviews in [Apollo Magazine](#), the [Wall Street Journal](#), and [Hyperallergic](#).

[Serge Poliakoff: Silent Paintings](#) was on display at Timothy Taylor Gallery in London in 2015. The exhibition was the first solo exhibition of the artist's work in the UK since his 1963 retrospective at the Whitechapel Gallery. Read a review in [Apollo Magazine](#).

Cheim & Read put together the exhibition [Serge Poliakoff](#) in 2016. It was curated by Joe Fyfe, who wrote an essay titled "Real Presences" which "evokes Poliakoff's ability to speak to the present through painting as materially actual metaphor." Read a [review](#) in [Hyperallergic](#) by Rob Colvin: "How Serge Poliakoff Predicted 60 Years of Painting."

In 2021, [Serge Poliakoff: Gouaches 1938-1969](#) was on display at Cheim & Read. Read a review in [Hyperallergic](#) by John Yau, titled "An Icon of Unconventional Abstraction."

[Serge Poliakoff: Image Divine](#) was at Almine Rech in 2024. The exhibition was curated by Dr. Dimitri Ozerkov and focused on the liturgical aspects of the artist's work, which comes from his early religious experiences and inspirations.



Poliakoff in his studio, unknown date
Photograph: Edition Galerie française, Munich



Serge Poliakoff (Russian-French, 1900-1969)

Composition Abstraite, 1967

Oil on canvas

Private Collection; L2024:86.1

Born in Moscow as the thirteenth of fourteen children, Serge Poliakoff fled his studies at the Institute of Painting, Sculpture and Architecture at the onset of the Russian Revolution in 1917. He supported himself as a musician and cabaret entertainer throughout Europe before settling in Paris in 1923. Poliakoff began to pursue painting a few years later, establishing himself in the “new” École de Paris (School of Paris) after World War II alongside Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985), Hans Hartung (1904-1989), and Nicolas de Staël (1914-1955). **Composition Abstraite** was painted towards the end of the artist’s life, continuing his dedication to an asymmetrical, expressive approach to geometry and color.

On view January 8 – April 13, 2025