



Owens, 2018

Photograph: Noah Webb

[Owens Artist Website](#)

[Owens at Gavin Brown's Enterprise](#)

[Owens at the Guggenheim](#)

Owens was an [artist in residence](#) at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 2000. Read about how she was inspired by the museum's collection of Japanese screens and textiles.

Watch a 2001 [video interview](#) between former MOCA LA Director of Education Suzanne Isken, filmmaker Peter Kirby, and Owens.

One of Owens' first major exhibitions was at the [Milwaukee Art Museum](#) in 2003. The exhibition, *Laura Owens*, was accompanied by a catalogue of her work to date.

Take a [virtual studio tour](#) with the artist in LA and read a 2013 [Artforum](#) interview with Sarah Lehrer-Graiwer at the 356 S. Mission Rd. studio space. "The Eighties called, they want their painting back."

In 2016, Owens was a Hugo Boss Prize Nominee. Watch her [nominee video](#).

The Whitney Museum of American Art hosted a [midcareer retrospective](#) of Owens' work in 2017 that travelled to the [Dallas Museum of Art](#) and the [Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles](#). Read a [New Yorker](#) article, "The Radical Paintings of Laura Owens" and a review of the MOCA exhibition in [Frieze](#).

Owens drew sharp criticism for her artist-run space, 356 Mission, in Boyle Heights Los Angeles. The gallery was the site of anti-gentrification protests for years before finally closing its doors. Carolina A. Miranda's article in the [Los Angeles Times](#) offers a Q&A with the artist and co-founder Wendy Yao about their decision. Matt Stromberg's [Hyperallergic](#) article included reactions from LA's art community and activists.

Watch a Getty Conservation Institute [video](#) with Owens on "The Materiality of Abstraction."

*Laura Owens: Rerun* was hosted by the [Cleveland Museum of Art](#) and [The Transformer Station](#) in 2021. The exhibition was curated and installed in collaboration with [local teens](#).

A 2021 exhibition at [Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles](#) explored parallels between the two artists' work. In a [Frieze article](#), Owens discusses "what we get wrong about van Gogh." Read a [review](#) of the exhibition by Alice Finney in Dezeen and peruse installation images.

Watch Artforum's episode of ["Artists on Writers, Writers On Artists"](#) that featured Owens and author Édouard Louis speaking about "the necessity of leaving home, embracing the artifacts of one's childhood, and how art does, and does not, change the world."



Owens, 2017

Photograph: David Benjamin Sherry



Laura Owens (American, b. 1970)

**Untitled**, 2024

Oil and Flashe on clay-coated paper, mounted to panel

Private Collection; L2025:58.1

Los Angeles-based artist Laura Owens embraces the legacy of abstract painting while challenging assumptions about the medium. The artist often combines thick layers of Flashe paint (a water-based, vinyl acrylic), screen-printed images that are digitally manipulated, and clay-coated paper to create complex paintings and wallpapers. **Untitled** is a recent work with thick strokes of blue, purple, green, and black on top of a more blended background. Commenting on responses to her work, the artist once said, “Co-mingling really disturbs a lot of the purists, who want to see the historical and cultural divides instead of the meshing.”

*On view June 25 – September 28, 2025*

Laura Owens (American, b. 1970)

**Untitled 2023**, 2023

Oil and Flashe on paper, aluminum plate, glazed ceramic frame

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2023:65.2

Born and raised in Ohio, Laura Owens attended the Rhode Island School of Design before moving to Los Angeles and completing her MFA at CalArts in the 1990s. Her innovative and fundamentally conceptual approach to painting often fuses figuration and abstraction, taking inspiration from avant-garde, pop, and craft movements throughout art history. **Untitled 2023** features Owen's thick marks in Flashe paint (a water-based, vinyl acrylic paint) in a gestural and abstract composition. With its shocking pinks, blues, and greens, the work evokes a tall vase of blooming flowers. As the artist once said: "I feel like there's a space of personal freedom for me where my art-making happens. When I go to that space, I'm completely in this world of possibility."

*On view September 13 – December 17, 2023*







Laura Owens (American, b. 1970)

**Untitled**, 2021

Oil and Flashe on linen

Private Collection; L2021:146.1

“Co-mingling really disturbs a lot of the purists, who want to see the historical and cultural divides instead of the meshing.” Los Angeles-based painter Laura Owens challenges assumptions about both figuration and abstraction in her mixed media works. The artist often combines thick oil or vinyl paint with digitally manipulated, screen-printed images to create paintings, wallpapers, and artist books. **Untitled** is one of Owens’ most recent artworks, layering bold strokes of hot pink, green, and beige over a pink, printed design. The artist has produced a wide range of new works this year, with exhibitions including the teen-curated *Laura Owens: Rerun* at The Transformer Station in Cleveland and *Laura Owens and Vincent van Gogh* at the Fondation Vincent van Gogh Arles.

*On view November 24, 2021 – February 27, 2022*