

Artist Resources – Mary Corse (American, b. 1945)

[Corse at PACE Gallery](#)

[Corse at Lisson Gallery](#)

[Corse at Lehmann Maupin](#)

The Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art created [an oral history](#) with Mary Corse in 2013.

After a 50-year career as an artist, Mary Corse finally received her [first solo exhibition](#) at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2018. *Mary Corse: A Survey in Light* was accompanied by a [symposium](#) at the Whitney. The exhibition then [travelled to LACMA](#).

Read [a 2017 interview](#) with the artist for Apollo Magazine and watch [a studio visit](#) with the artist at her studio in Topanga Canyon, California.

Bill Griffin, a founding partner at Kanye Griffin Corcoran, spoke on Corse’s overdue recognition: “This is a story of somebody who has been completely committed for five decades, regardless of what the market or what anybody said. She has carved out an incredible body of work on her own.” See [an article in the Los Angeles Times](#) about Corse’s legacy. [The Art Newspaper](#) also traced the flood of Corse exhibitions in the late 2010s.



Corse, 2017

Photography: Kirk McKoy



Corse in her studio, 2018
Photography: Joao Canziani

“I’m not interested in painting coming from thought. Thought is finite, thought is the past. By the time you have the thought, it’s over, behind you. It’s more about intuition and feeling.”

In her late 70s, Mary Corse is experiencing a tremendous market boom. See [Artnet’s exploration](#) of the artist’s “50-year journey to becoming an overnight success.”

Corse Joined PACE Gallery in 2018. In February 2021, the gallery installed the solo exhibition, [Mary Corse](#).

From 2018 to 2021, the Dia Art Foundation installed a [long-term installation](#) of Corse’s work at Dia:Beacon. [See a review](#) of her work by Martha Schwendener with the New York Times.

In 2021, the Long Museum West Bund in Shanghai is installing the first comprehensive exhibition of the artist’s work in Asia. [Mary Corse: Painting with Light](#) will be on display from July 3 to September 5, 2021.



Mary Corse (American, b. 1945)

Untitled (White Grid, Horizontal Strokes), 1969

Glass microspheres in acrylic on canvas

Private Collection; L2021:46.1

Born in Berkeley, California, Mary Corse rose to prominence in the 1960s as a significant female voice in the Light and Space movement—a loose association of Los Angeles-based artists interested in the visual, physical, and sensory experiences of light and space, often explored through unusual materials. Corse was particularly attracted to questions of perception in both painting and sculpture, the idea that light could be both tangible and intangible, acting simultaneously as subject and medium. Parallel interests in Quantum physics and industrial materials including plexiglass, fluorescent lights, and paint containing metal flakes or glass microspheres influenced Corse throughout the 1960s. Manufactured for a wide variety of medical, scientific, and industrial uses, including street signs and pavement dividing lines, glass microspheres are tiny refractive beads that create shifting luminescent surfaces. Corse began incorporating this material in her paintings in 1968 to enhance modernist motifs of grids and monochrome palettes. Using microspheres, she created canvases like **Untitled (White Grid, Horizontal Strokes)** that seem to emanate light and alter in appearance depending on the viewer's position and perspective.

On view June 2 – September 5, 2021