

SAM FRANCIS

IN RECOGNITION OF
SLOW ART DAY
APRIL 15, 2023
EL NIDO BY VC PROJECTS
LOS ANGELES

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Sam Francis Foundation

<https://samfrancisfoundation.org>

100

Sam Francis

A Century of Sam

2023 marks the centennial of Sam Francis (June 25, 1923 – November 4, 1994). We celebrate the 100th anniversary of Francis's birthday and his continued creative legacy through exhibitions, education events, special projects, articles, and archival explorations. We invite scholars, colleagues, artists, institutions, and historians to explore their relationship with Francis, his art, his creative legacy and his inspiration.



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April 15, 2023 for El NIDO by VC Projects programming*

www.vcprojects.art | www.slowartday.com

SLOW ART DAY

APRIL 15, 2023

In recognition of the artist and writer, Sam Francis,
and Sam Francis Foundation,

El NIDO by VC Projects would like to acknowledge
Sam Francis for 'slow reading'

on *Slow Art Day April 15, 2023*

GUIDELINES FOR READING AND MORE

1. Read the text slowly out loud
2. After reading, go outside or look through a window to see the sky (either day or night.)
3. Contemplate in silence
4. Create a work in any medium in reflection of this text

SAM FRANCIS

Death mediates the
high and the low

waterfall mediates the
above and below

the above and below
can fully cohere

cohesion

death has only depth

the deep inclines

deepening inclining

the incline deepens

there are as many

deaths as possible

death coheres

our soul mediates

you and me

armed in gold

his heart across

the heavens rolled

claimed me his own

Death spreads out

letting enter

I paint time

I am ruin rolled

I am rolled

Time is the swiftest
of all things

darkness covers light
light fills darkness

interpenetration of

time and space

an increase in light

gives an increase in

darkness

light and dark

are constellations

of each other

cutting away to a new image is

new image

the motion

towards death

light is the evidence 4

if the movement 3

of eternity 2

compensating is
the shadow adding
to the light what
it must know at this time

We are always at the center of space

we are always at the center of time

we are always far

as possible from both

east and west

we are always as far as possible from earlier

and later

He is named space

He is named time

He is named light

He is named

He has the mercy of eternity

He is spreading

(moving in space spreading)

moving is possible

because of easing

because of losing

there are as many images
as eyes to see

these paintings

approach you

where

you

are

Red contains every color

even red

all colors in this

painting consist of

all other colors

my starting point

has no dimension

neither in time

neither in color

space

or death

but is a unified

even wave with intensity

Color is born
of the interpretation
of light and dark

the space at
the center
of these paintings
is reserved
for you

can you unify?

can you unite?

can you bear?

can you bare?

the weight

at the center?

can you last?

forever?

having never

begun?

as you know
energy can have
never begun
and yet is
taken up
again and
again an
lasts forever
until it is
taken up
again

Color is a
firing
of the
eye

one flash only
fills the universe

one miracle only
endures forever

(eternity)

Color is a pattern
that plays across
the membrane of
the mind

Color is a series
of harmonies
everywhere in
the universe
being divine
whole numbers
lasting forever
adrift in time

I am your change-bearer

I am your instrument

of expansion

are you the white

from eternity?

Death has no

surface

only depth

Depth is all

Sam Francis



ABOUT SAM FRANCIS

For Sam Francis, exploring the creative process was his driving force. It impacted not only his art, but his view of human progress.

One of the twentieth century's most profound Abstract Expressionists, American artist Sam Francis (1923–1994) is noted as one of the first post-World War II painters to develop an international reputation. Francis created thousands of paintings as well as works on paper, prints and monotypes, housed in major museum collections and institutions around the world. Regarded as one of the leading interpreters of color and light, his work holds references to New York abstract expressionism, color field painting, Chinese and Japanese art, French impressionism and his own Bay Area roots.

After graduating from Cal Berkeley in 1950 with a degree in art, Francis moved to Paris, where he would go on to be named by Time Magazine as, “the hottest American painter in Paris these days.” A transformative period of his career, Francis immersed himself in a study of Monet's Water Lilies and was influenced by his close friendships with the Matisse family and artists Al Held, Joan Mitchell, and Jean-Paul Riopelle.

For the next four decades he traveled and studied extensively, maintaining studios in Bern, Paris, Tokyo, Mexico City, New York and Northern and Southern California. Through his travels he was exposed to many styles, techniques and cultural influences, which informed the development of his own dialogue and style of painting. Francis possessed a lyrical and gestural

hand, enabling him to capture and record the brilliance, energy and intensity of color at different moments of time and periods of his life. His paintings embody his love of literature, music and science, while reflecting his deep range of emotions and personal turmoil.

Not only are Francis's paintings valued historically for their aesthetic vision, but his inquisitive mind and spirit have solidified Francis's legacy as a contemporary renaissance man. His interest in the creative process was expansive and synergistic – art, technology, psychology, science, medicine, and protecting the environment (before it became a movement). He was an early investor in research to find creative solutions to our dependence on non-renewable energy sources and cures for AIDs. In each of these realms, he explored the nature of creativity – what stimulates it, the importance of testing new ideas through experimentation as well as the roles of imagination, intuition and knowledge.

Much like Francis believed his life was a series of ongoing challenges, the Sam Francis Foundation is dedicated to expanding his sense of wonder – his freedom to explore – his mantra to dream – his life force to be creative..

<https://samfrancisfoundation.org>

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