

WADDINGTON CUSTOT

PIERRE SOULAGES

BIOGRAPHY

- 1919 Born 24 December, Rodez, France
- 1938-9 Moves to Paris to train as a drawing teacher and briefly attends the Ecole nationale superieure des beaux-arts, Paris
- 1940 Drafts into the military
- 1941 Demobilised from the war
- 1941-2 Enrols at the Ecole des beaux-arts in Montpellier and meets Colette Llaurens, his future wife
- 1942 Meets Sonia Delaunay during Occupation and becomes interested in abstract art
Gets married to Colette Llaurens
- 1946 Settles in Courbevoie, near Paris and finally devotes his time fully to painting
- 1947 Hires a space to hang his work at the *Salon des surindependents*, it is the first time his paintings are exhibited publicly for the first time, and attract a great amount of interest
- 1948 Relocates to Montparnasse and receives the visit of James Johnson Sweeney in his studio, future Director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York
- 1949 First solo exhibition, Galerie Lydia Conti, Paris
Musee de Grenoble makes acquisition of his work
Designs the costumes and sets for Roger Vailland's ballet *Heloise et Abelard*.
Work included in the group show *Painted in 1949*, at Betty Parsons Gallery
- 1951 Work presented in The Philips Collection, Washington, DC
- 1952-4 Acquisitions by the Museum of Modern Art, and the Guggenheim Museum, New York
- 1954 First American one-man show, Koots Gallery, New York
- 1955 Exhibition at Gimpel Fils Gallery, London
- 1954-8 Exhibits with Samuel Koots, signed a contract
- 1957 First trip to the US, where he meets artists including Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning and Robert Motherwell
- 1958 Builds a house and a studio, to his own design, in Sete, France
- 1960 First retrospective exhibition, Museum Folkwang, Essen, Germany

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- 1964 Wins the Carnegie Prize, from the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburg
- 1966 Retrospective at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Receives the design for a glass mosaic window at the Suermondt-Ludwig-Museum, Aachen
- 1967 Retrospective at the Musee national d'art modern, Paris
- 1968 Retrospective at the Musee d'art contemporain de Montreal
Retrospective at Musee du Quebec
Receives a ceramic mural for the Oliver Tyrone Corporation skyscraper in Pittsburg
- 1975 Creates the first of three bronze reliefs, based on his earlier etchings
- 1976 Receives the Rembrandt Award, Amsterdam
- 1979 Is named Foreign Honorary Member for Art, by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
Exhibition of the first single-pigment (later called 'outrenoir' or 'beyond black) paintings at the Musee national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- 1986 Wins the Grand Prix National for Painting, Paris
- 1987 French state gives a major commission for the design of 104 windows for the Romanesque abbey at Conques, France
- 1993 Retrospective exhibition at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Seoul
- 1994 Retrospective exhibition at the China Fine Arts Palace, Beijing
Retrospective exhibition at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum
- 2001 Exhibition at the Ermitage Museum, St Petersburg
Exhibition at the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow
- 2009 Major retrospective exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- 2014 Musee Soulages opens in Rodez, France
- 2015 Receives the Legion of Honour
- Soulages lives and works in Paris and Sete

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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