

# 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
- 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

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- 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 Hermitage 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
- 2019** Retrospective exhibition, *Pierre Soulages au Louvre*, in Paris, celebrates the artist's 100th birthday

Soulages lives and works in Paris and Sete

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## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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