

WADDINGTON CUSTOT

FRANK STELLA

BIOGRAPHY

- 1936 Born in Malden, Massachusetts, 12 May
- 1950–54 Attends Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts; enrolls in art appreciation course and studio programme taught by abstract painter Patrick Morgan. Fellow students include Carl Andre and Hollis Frampton
- 1954–58 Attends Princeton University, New Jersey; studies history and continues painting
Makes frequent visits to museums and galleries in New York City; at Leo Castelli Gallery sees Jasper Johns' first one-man show, including Flag and Target paintings
- 1958 Moves to New York City, taking a storefront studio on the Lower East Side; begins work on 'transitional' and *Black* series paintings
- 1959 Dorothy Miller, curator at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, sees *Black* painting exhibited at Tibor de Nagy Gallery
Miller and Leo Castelli visit studio, leads to invitation to participate in *Sixteen Americans* at The Museum of Modern Art and representation by Leo Castelli Gallery
First painting purchased by a museum; 'The Marriage of Reason and Squalor' acquired by The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 1960 Begins *Aluminum* series, first shaped canvas paintings using commercial radiator paint, and *Copper* series
First solo exhibition at Leo Castelli Gallery
- 1961 Begins *Benjamin Moore* series, named after brand of alkyd paint
First visit to Europe; travels to England, France and Spain, and Morocco
First solo exhibition at Galerie Lawrence, Paris
- 1962 Included in *Geometric Abstraction in America*, group show at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Begins *Concentric Squares* and *Mitered Mazes* series
- 1963 Artist-in-residence at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; produces *Dartmouth* series
Travels to Iran with Henry Geldzahler, curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Paints *Purple* series, exhibited the following year at Leo Castelli Gallery
- 1964 Begins *Moroccan*, *Running V* and *Notched V* series; *Running V* paintings shown at first exhibition at Kasmin Limited, London
Included in U.S. section of XXXII Venice Biennale
Group shows include *Post Painterly Abstraction*, curated by Clement Greenberg at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and *The Shaped Canvas*, curated by Laurence Alloway at The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

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- 1965 Part of the US representation at VIII Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil; travels to Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo
Begins *Irregular Polygons* series
- 1966 Included in *30th Biennial Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting* at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Work from *Irregular Polygon* series exhibited at Leo Castelli Gallery, New York and first solo exhibition at David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto
- 1967 At Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles, makes first prints
Included in *American Painting Now* at U.S. Pavilion, Expo 67, Montreal
Introduction of first curvilinear compositions with new *Protractor* series
Travels and teaches in Canada, paints first of *Saskatchewan* series

Paintings exhibited at Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, in *Kompas 3: Paintings After 1945 in New York*
- 1968 Solo exhibitions at Washington Gallery of Modern Art, Washington, D.C.; Irving Blum Gallery, Los Angeles; David Mirvish Gallery, Toronto; Bennington College, Vermont; and Kasmin Limited, London
Paintings and coloured lithographs exhibited at *documenta IV*, Kassel
Lectures at The Art Institute of Chicago
- 1969 Two-man exhibition, with Kenneth Noland, at Art Gallery of Toronto
Begins *Newfoundland* series
Teaches undergraduate painting course at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts; solo exhibition held at the university's Rose Art Museum
Participates in *New York Painting and Sculpture: 1940–1970*, curated by Henry Geldzahler at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- 1970 Starts work at Gemini G.E.L., Los Angeles, on *Aluminum* and *Copper* print series, relating to the 1960–61 painting series; goes onto create further print series corresponding to earlier series of the same name
Becomes youngest artist to be honoured with retrospective exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; curated by William Rubin and accompanied by publication of his monograph *Frank Stella*, exhibition tour includes Hayward Gallery, London, and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
- 1971 *Frank Stella*, monograph by Robert Rosenblum, Professor of Fine Arts at New York University, published by Penguin Books
Begins *Polish Village* series, large-scale collage reliefs; exhibited at Kasmin Limited, London, and Lawrence Rubin Gallery, New York
Included in *The Structure of Color* exhibition at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1972 Work exhibited in *American Art Since 1945* at Philadelphia Museum of Art and *Recent American Painting and Sculpture in the Albright-Knox Art Gallery*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York

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- 1973 Included in *1973 Biennial Exhibition: Contemporary American Art* at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1974 Paints *Diderot* series, the largest subset of his *Concentric Square* works
Begins working with Swan Engraving Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut, etching metal reliefs for *Brazilian* series
Publishes *Eccentric Polygon* prints, based on *Irregular Polygons* series (1966–67), marks change in printmaking with use of drawing and multiple overprinting methods
Begins work on *Paper Reliefs* series, first project in collaboration with Tyler Graphics, Bedford, New York
- 1975 Petersburg Press installs lithography press on first floor of Stella's Manhattan home
Purchases set of ship curves drawing templates in California; railroad and French curves later added to template collection
- 1976 Travels to Florida Everglades for bird-watching, prompts titles for new *Exotic Birds* relief series
Frank Stella: Neue Reliefbilder–Bilder und Graphik exhibition opens at Kunsthalle Basel
The Baltimore Museum of Art shows *Frank Stella: The Black Paintings*, includes most of the *Black* series of 1958–60
- 1977 Retrospective exhibition, *Frank Stella: Werke 1958–1976*, at Kunsthalle Bielefeld, touring to Kunsthalle Tübingen, Germany
- 1978 Works from *Polish Village*, *Brazilian* and *Exotic Bird* series exhibited in *Stella Since 1970* at The Fort Worth Art Museum, Texas; tours North America
Begins *Indian Bird* relief series
- 1979 *Indian Birds: Painted Metal Reliefs*, exhibited at Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, and *Frank Stella: The Indian Bird Maquettes* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Receives Claude Moore Fuess Award for distinguished contribution to public service from Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts
- 1980 Work included in *Printed Art: A View of Two Decades* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Solo exhibitions include *Frank Stella: Peintures 1970–1979*, at Centre d'arts plastiques contemporains de Bordeaux, and *Frank Stella: Working Drawings / Zeichnungen 1956–1970*, at Kunstmuseum Basel
Begins drawings and Foamcore maquettes for *Circuit* series
- 1981 Included in *A New Spirit in Painting* at Royal Academy of Arts, London
Receives Medal for Painting from Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine
Travels to Israel; receives honorary fellowship from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem. Visits The Tel Aviv Museum and sees El Lissitzky's *Had Gadya* gouaches
- 1982 Begins *Shards* series, based directly on *Shards* prints, *South African Mines* and *Playskool* series
Starts work on *Illustrations after El Lissitzky's Had Gadya* prints

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- Receives The Mayor of the City of New York's Award of Honor for Arts and Culture from Edward I. Koch
Begins residency at American Academy of Arts and Letters, Rome, until June 1983
Major retrospective, *Frank Stella: Prints 1967–1982* opens at The University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, Michigan, tours the U.S. until 1986; in conjunction, Richard H. Axson's *The Prints of Frank Stella: A Catalogue Raisonné 1967–1982* published in 1983
- 1983 Appointed Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; delivers series of six lectures titled 'Working Space'
Travels to Malta, leading to *Malta* relief series
Resource / Response / Reservoir: Stella Survey 1959–1982 exhibited at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
- 1984 Completes *Illustrations after El Lissitzky's Had Gadya*, published in November by Waddington Graphics, London
Begins *Cones and Pillars* series, large-scale painted metal relief
Receives honorary degree from Princeton University, New Jersey
Travels to Europe; in Edinburgh works on tapestries based on his *Had Gadya* prints for PepsiCo headquarters, Purchase, New York
- 1985 Makes series of ceramic reliefs
Frank Stella: Illustrations after El Lissitzky's Had Gadya 1982–84 exhibited at Waddington Graphics, London
Frank Stella: Works and New Graphics exhibition opens at Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, tours to Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin; includes *Illustrations after El Lissitzky's Had Gadya* and work from *Cones and Pillars* series
Aquarium visit inspires *Moby-Dick* series; begins work on *The Waves* prints which influence the series, titles are names of chapters from Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick*
Work included in *Contrasts of Form: Geometric Abstract Art 1910–1980* at The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Receives Award of American Art from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia
- 1986 Begins *Wave* reliefs, based on the wave motif from *Had Gadya* prints
Frank Stella: Had Gadya, after El Lissitzky—A Series of Prints, 1982–1984 opens at The Tel Aviv Museum, exhibits prints alongside El Lissitzky's *Had Gadya* gouaches for the first time
'Salto nel Mio Sacco!', 35-foot-high sculptural painting, installed in lobby at 599 Lexington Avenue, New York City, the largest construction undertaken by Stella to date
Lawrence Rubin's *Frank Stella Paintings, 1958 to 1965—A Catalogue Raisonné*, with an introduction by Robert Rosenblum, published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang Publishers, New York
- 1987 Becomes the only living American artist to be honoured with a second retrospective at The Museum of Modern Art, New York; *Frank Stella: 1970–1987* tours North America and Europe; in conjunction, William Rubin's monograph of the same title is published
- 1988 Begins work on architectural projects, including model for 'Bridge Project across the Seine River, Paris'
Alfred Pacquement's monograph *Frank Stella*, published by Flammarion, Paris

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- 1989 Awarded Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Government
Frank Stella: The Waves, exhibition of 13 screenprints from 1985–89 at Waddington Graphics, London
- 1990 Commissioned by David Mirvish to design murals for the Princess of Wales Theatre, under construction in Toronto
- 1991 Creates study and models for Kunsthalle and garden complex, comprised of five buildings and an orangery, in Dresden; commissioned by Rolf Hoffmann
- 1992 Receives the Barnard Medal of Distinction from New York City's Barnard College
- 1993 Begins *Imaginary Places* series; titles are taken from Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi's book *The Dictionary of Imaginary Places*
Richard Meier, Frank Stella: Arte e architettura exhibition at Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome
- 1994 Solo exhibition, *Frank Stella: Imaginary Places—New Work: Painting, Relief and Sculpture*, opens at Waddington Galleries, London
- 1995 Teaches advanced studio class at Yale School of Architecture as Visiting Professor of Architectural Design
Retrospective exhibition at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, curated by Judith Goldman
Sidney Guberman's monograph *Frank Stella: An Illustrated Biography* published by Rizzoli, New York
- 1996 Receives honorary doctorate from Friedrich Schiller Universität, Jena, Germany
Five sculptures from *Hudson River Valley* series installed at Ernst Abbe Platz, Jena
Installation of monumental triptych painting in the four storey high lobby of Roche & Dinkeloo's hotel tower, Marina Centre, Singapore
- 1997 *Frank Stella at Tyler Graphics: Invention in Printmaking*, organised by Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, tours the U.S. from Minneapolis; explores thirty years of collaboration with Kenneth Tyler
- 1998 Awarded Gold Medal for Graphic Art by American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
Begins work on *Heinrich von Kleist* series; brightly coloured aluminium reliefs, large-scale paintings and sculptures
- 1999 *Frank Stella at 2000: Changing the Rules*, solo exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Florida
- 2000 Robert K. Wallace's *Frank Stella's Moby-Dick: Words & Shapes*, a comprehensive overview of the *Moby-Dick* series, published by The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor
- 2001 Receives Gold Medal of the National Arts Club, New York

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Monumental sculpture, 'Prinz Friedrich von Homburg, Ein Schauspiel, 3X' (1998–2001), installed in front of the East Building of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

- 2002 Begins *Bamboo* series, exhibited the following year at Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York
- 2003 Wall sculptures from new *Near East* series, named after archeological sites in ancient Anatolia, exhibited at Bernard Jacobson Gallery, London; sand casting technique found and found objects used
Begins *Bali* series; titles refer to words from Margaret Mead and Gregory Bateson's anthropological study *The Balinese Character* published in 1942
- 2004 Solo exhibition at San Francisco Museum of Modern Art of works from the collection, "*What You See Is What You See*": *Frank Stella and the Anderson Collection at SFMOMA*
- 2005 Exhibition of work from *Bali* series at Waddington Galleries, London; eleven free standing and wall mounted sculptures combine stainless steel tubing with moulded carbon fibre
- 2006 Begins *Scarlatti Sonata Kirkpatrick* series, inspired by work of Italian composer Domenico Scarlatti (1688–1757) for harpsichord, catalogued by musicologist and harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick (1911–1984)
- 2007 Retrospective at the The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Frank Stella: Painting into Architecture, charts development into architecture, in conjunction with *Frank Stella on the Roof*, recent stainless steel and carbon fibre works in The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden
- 2008 *Polygons to Printmaking: The Work of Frank Stella, 1958–1997* exhibited at Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey
- 2009 Begins *Circus* series with 'Circus of Pure Feeling for Malevich: Four Squares', inspired by the tradition of circus forms and imagery
Moby Dick: Frank Stella and Herman Melville exhibited at Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids, Missouri; printed works from *Moby-Dick* series include 'The Fountain' (1992), at over two meters high by seven meters high with sixty-seven colours, Stella's largest and most complex print
- 2010 Receives 2009 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama at the White House, Washington, D.C.
- 2011 Collaborates with Spanish engineer and architect, Santiago Calatrava, to create the monumental *Michael Kohlhaas Curtain*, unveiled in the glass hall of Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin; in conjunction, Stella's *Illustrations after El Lissitzky's Had Gadya* prints are exhibited alongside El Lissitzky's *Had Gadya* lithographs
- 2012 *Frank Stella: The Retrospective Works 1958–2012* exhibited at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany

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2014

Recent work exhibited at Peter Freeman, New York; sculptures from *Scarlatti K* and *Circus* series combine metal structures with resin forms created from 3-D printing technology

Lives and works in New York City