

Pat Steir

THE ARTIST UNVEILED A MAJOR SITE-SPECIFIC COMMISSION IN PHILADELPHIA, AND A SECOND WILL BE INSTALLED THIS FALL AT THE HIRSHHORN IN WASHINGTON, D.C. HERE, A LOOK AT HER INCREDIBLE FIVE-DECADE CAREER

1992 | SMALLER YELLOW ON BLUE WATERFALL

After experimenting with Conceptual art and Minimalism, Steir began to apply paint by dripping and flinging it onto the canvas in the 1980s. These unrestrained, performative “Waterfall” paintings, inspired by Chinese literati works, have been the center of Steir’s focus for the past 30 years.



“My work is about fluidity, gravity, and timing,” says Pat Steir



2017 | “KAIROS”

In a slight departure from her celebrated “Waterfall” works, Steir’s latest series, “Split,” achieves a radiant glow through layer upon layer of color; a dramatic center rupture completes each piece. This 2017 exhibition was her first with New York megadealers Dominique Lévy and Brett Gorvy. Steir is also represented by Locks Gallery in Philadelphia.



1982 | THE BRUEGHEL SERIES (A VANITAS OF STYLE)

In 1984, the Brooklyn Museum exhibited this striking 64-panel work, which emulated hundreds of artist styles, from Vincent van Gogh to Jackson Pollock, to create a cohesive image inspired by the 17th-century painter Jan Brueghel the Elder.



2019 | “SILENT SECRET WATERFALLS: THE BARNES SERIES”

Steir’s suite of 11 new “Waterfall” paintings is the first time a painter has been invited to make something for the Barnes Foundation since founder Albert Barnes commissioned his Matisse mural, *The Dance*, in the early 1930s. In October, a site-specific project will transform the inner gallery of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, in Washington, D.C., into a rainbow of color.



1992 | ELECTIVE AFFINITY WATERFALL

This radiant piece, painted a year before Steir’s participation in the prestigious 45th Venice Biennale, sold for \$2.3 million at a Phillips New York auction in 2018, well above its high estimate of \$800,000 and more than double her previous record of \$975,000.

—LUCY REES