

# IAN MCKENZIE SMITH

CBE PPRSA PPRSW RGI HRA FRSE LLD

The work of Ian McKenzie Smith (b.1935) shows his continuing commitment to a distinctly personal brand of landscape based abstraction: a subtle and evocative way of painting that owes something to Eastern traditions, as well as the American colour-field painters of the 1950s.

McKenzie Smith studied at Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen and at Hospitalfield in Arbroath. A travelling scholarship took him to Paris, where he met the Japanese artist Kenzo Okada and encountered Zen philosophy. An oriental sense of balance and calligraphic finesse has been a feature of his work ever since.

Awarded the OBE and CBE for services to art, he was director of the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums for some thirty years. He is Past President of the Royal Scottish Academy, the Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour, a member of the Royal Glasgow Institute, an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy and a former Trustee of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Works are in public collections including the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, The Government Art Collection, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth Art Galleries, and in private collections in the UK, Europe, North America and Japan.

## EDUCATION

Grays School of Art, Robert Gordon University.  
Patrick Allan Fraser College of Art, Arbroath.  
Aberdeen College of Education.

## EMPLOYMENT

1968 – 1996 Director, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, and City of Aberdeen Arts and Recreation Officer.

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Chair, Marguerite McBey Trust (City of Aberdeen).  
Member, MacDonald Art Committee (City of Aberdeen).  
Member, RGU Art and Heritage Forum.  
Member, RSA William Littlejohn Panel.  
Trustee, Royal Scottish Academy Foundation.

## KEY RESIDENCIES AND BURSARIES

Institute of Contemporary Prints Bursary.  
English Speaking Union Bursary.  
RSA Sir William Gillies Bequest Bursary.  
RSW Sir William Gillies Award.  
Arts and Business Scotland Award.

## WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS INCLUDE:

Abbot Hall Art Gallery  
Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum  
Art & Heritage Collection, Robert Gordon University  
British Library  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Dundee Art Galleries & Museum  
Glasgow Museums  
Government Art Collection  
High Life Highland Exhibitions Unit  
Mintlaw Discovery Centre  
Royal Scottish Academy of Art & Architecture  
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art  
University of Aberdeen

## THE ACADEMICIANS' GALLERY

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