

The background of the entire page is a complex, abstract geometric pattern. It consists of various black and white shapes, including triangles, rectangles, and polygons, arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement. The shapes are interconnected, forming a continuous, non-repeating pattern that fills the entire frame. The overall effect is one of dynamic balance and visual complexity.

PETER LOWE

selected works 1966-2016

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All works may be viewed online at
www.waterhousedodd.com/peter-lowe
and are available for purchase on receipt of this catalogue

Front cover image
Untitled, 1973
Engraved black & white plastic on board 59 x 59 cm

Back cover image
Colour sequence, 2000
Unique inkjet print 37 x 56 cm

PETER LOWE

Selected works 1966-2016

22 June - 16 July 2016

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Foreword

When work of the Systems Group, which Peter Lowe had joined in 1969, was shown in the Matrix exhibition in Bristol in 1972 it met with a mixed reception. Constructive abstraction, though well established in continental Europe, was still relatively unfamiliar in the UK, and some critics of the exhibition thought such works were cold and clinical. But a more perceptive reviewer wrote that although explanations of systems-based art might make it seem austere, in reality it was not. He went on to comment on the visual pleasure provided by the works' clean elegance, and by its constructional craftsmanship. It is these qualities of clarity and precision, together with a relative simplicity of form and meticulous concern for detail, which characterise the whole of Lowe's oeuvre from his first abstract works in the late 1950s to the reliefs, constructions, paintings and prints he continues to produce today in his London studio.

In addition to its directly observable characteristics there is a fundamental aspect of all Lowe's work which underpins the visual pleasure which an initial look at his works provides. This is the concept of rationality – that every work is influenced by some form of systematised geometric or arithmetic logic such as numbering sequences, permutations, the progressive rotation of a repeated element, or the spatial relationship between one geometric form and another. While appreciation of a work is not dependent on knowing which system governs its structure, the recognition and analysis of such systems can enhance the viewing experience by adding a dimension beyond the visual. One of Lowe's colleagues in the Systems Group, Jeffrey Steele, even suggested to the Matrix reviewer that in looking at work of this kind, "*the unconscious registration in the human mind of a mathematical relationship plays a major part in aesthetic pleasure.*"

Lowe's interest in constructive abstraction began as early as 1955 when, at the age of seventeen and in his second year at Goldsmiths College, he visited Paris and was fascinated by a sculpture exhibition which included works by Naum Gabo, Hans Arp and Alexander Calder. He then studied under, and was greatly influenced by, Mary and Kenneth Martin who had been members of the post-war

Constructionists – the first British art group to work within the European constructivist tradition. Lowe's own work in this tradition was first shown in 1962 in the A.I.A. exhibition in London, *The Geometric Environment*. Since then his work has been in some 150 solo and group exhibitions, many throughout continental Europe. His work is also held in several national collections, including Vienna's Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Grenoble, Museum Stzuki in Lodz, Poland and the Museum of Art in Vukova, Croatia. In the late 1970s, his close association with the continental constructivist tradition was strengthened when he became a member of IAFKG (Internationaler Arbeitskreis für Konstruktive Gestaltung, later known simply as Arbeitskreis), a pan-European constructivist art group, and took part in a number of their shows and projects, including the construction of a large outdoor sculpture in the Fulda region in central Germany. In Lagamas in the south of France, he recently produced an outdoor installation which was mirrored in a musical work by the composer Eric Fischer. Both works were based on the same permutational system.

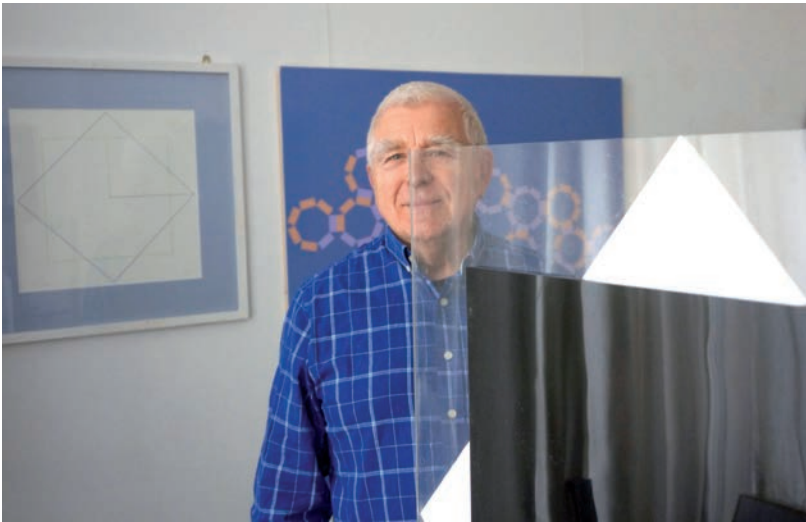
European artists to whom Lowe has often referred include especially Theo van Doesburg and the two Swiss artists, Richard Lohse and Max Bill. Bill's concept of 'concrete art' (Art Konkret) is particularly relevant to Lowe. "*We use the term concrete,*" wrote Bill, "*to refer to those works that have developed through their own intrinsic means and laws and that bear no relation to external phenomena.*"

In this concrete sense, Lowe's works are 'whole' objects in their own right, not abstractions from the visible world, and they reward being viewed as such. As this current survey demonstrates, the application of a relatively small number of basic geometric and arithmetic concepts or systems, can produce a huge range of different objects and variants (in two and three dimensions) which are, in simple terms, very satisfying to look at and to think about. This is art for the eye and for the mind.

Dr Alan Fowler

April 2016

Selected works



Peter Lowe in his London studio (image courtesy of Durril Weller)

Early constructions: 1966-1969

clockwise from top right

Permutation of rows (7), 1968 Perspex on board 25 x 25 x 3 cm

4 layers 4 rows, 1968 Perspex on board 45 x 45 x 6 cm

Rotation of 2 layers, 1968 Perspex on board 50 x 50 x 10 cm

Structural relief, 1966 Perspex 84 x 60 x 13 cm



Sculptural works: 1965-1975

below

Study for interlocking squares, 1968-70
Perspex with wooden stand 72 x 72 cm

right

Construction based on seven, 1969
Perspex 36.5 x 11 x 11 cm



Volume & Void: 1973-1985

clockwise from top right

White relief 2, 1975

Painted wood & fibreglass

81 x 81 x 13 cm

Volume & Void, 1973

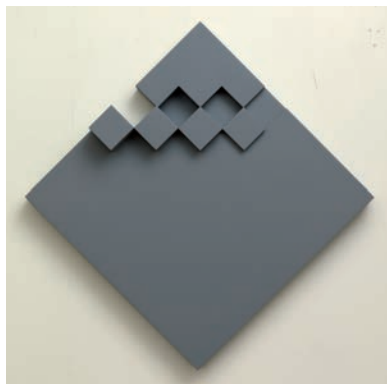
Painted wood 51 x 51 x 8 cm

Grey relief, 1982

Painted wood 52 x 52 x 10 cm

Grey relief 2, 1977

Painted wood 45 x 45 x 3 cm



Rotations and spirals: 2000-present day

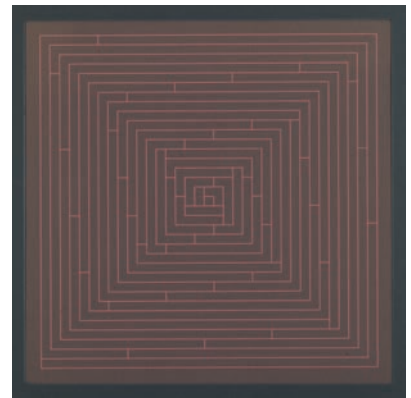
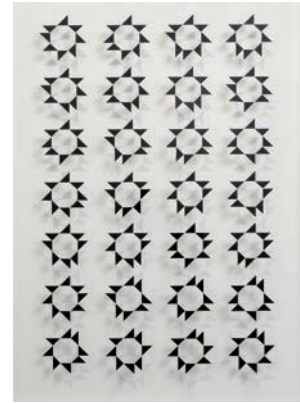
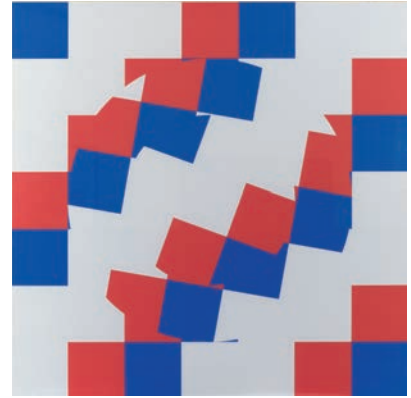
clockwise from top right

Hidden circles, 2006 Unique inkjet print 92 x 92 cm

28 octagonal variants, 2010 Vinyl collage on clear perspex 71 x 51 cm

Spiral, 1990 Unique inkjet print 40 x 40 cm

Triangles in a dodecagon, 2001-04 Acrylic on canvas 112 x 112 cm



Polygons: 2010-present day

clockwise from top right

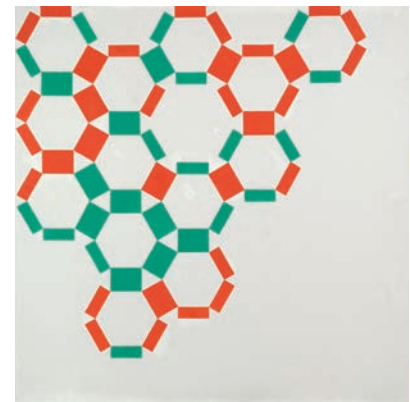
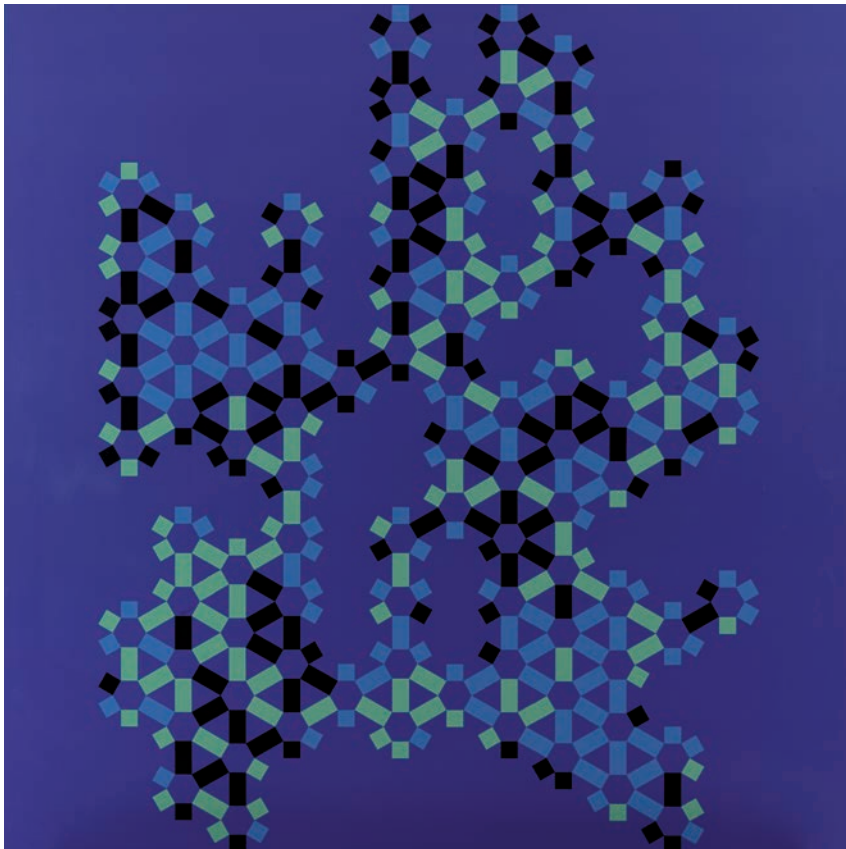
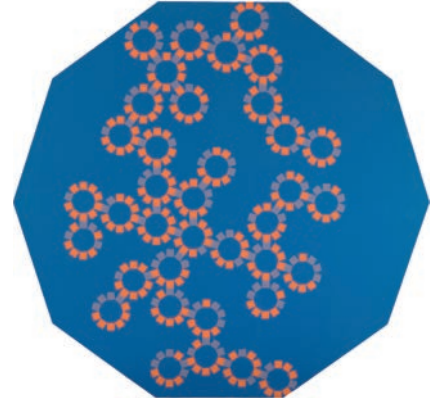
Decagons on blue, 2013 Unique vinyl print on plywood 93 x 98 cm

Double crosses, 2012 Unique inkjet print 92 x 54 cm

Hexagonal sequences, 2015 Acrylic on canvas 90 x 90 cm

Integration of three colours on blue background, 2012

Unique vinyl print on plywood 100 x 100 cm



Unique computer drawings: 1981-2000

clockwise from top right

Drawing 45, 1991

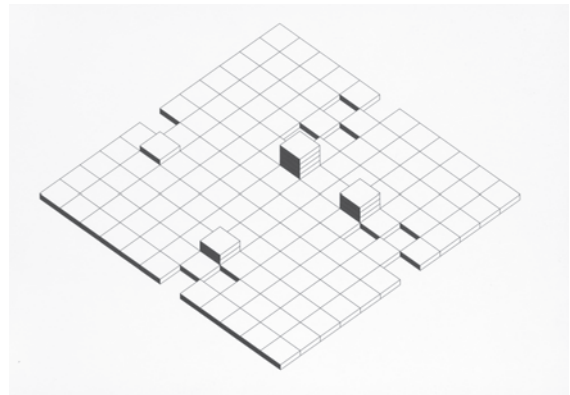
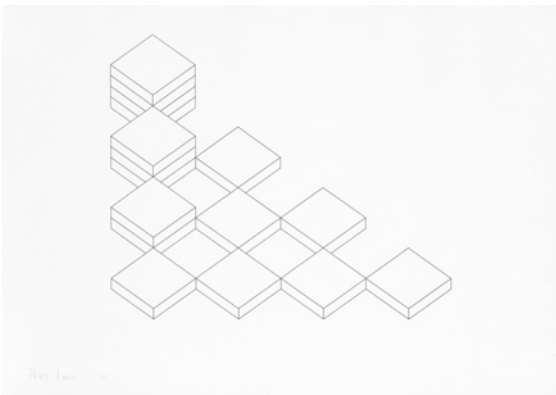
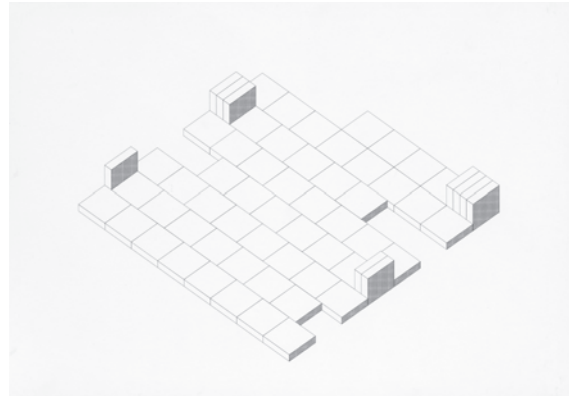
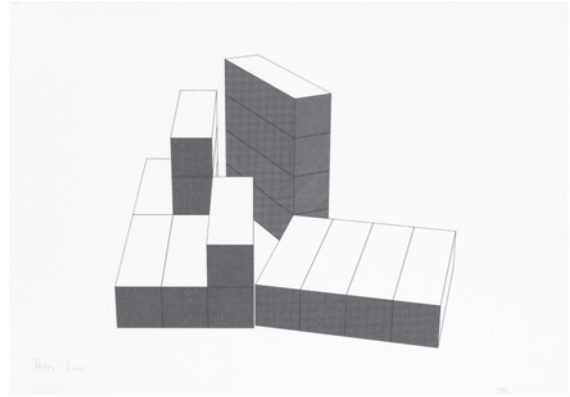
Drawing 48, 2000

Drawing 56, 2000

Drawing: Volume & Void, 1981

Drawing: Sequence of 4, 1990

all drawings are created using computer aided design
each work is a unique print measuring 41 x 58 cm



PETER LOWE

Lowe was born in Hackney, London, in 1938. At the age of 16 he entered Goldsmith's College in London and was taught by Kenneth and Mary Martin. It was during this time that he moved away from a figurative style and towards abstract art.

In 1962 Lowe took a teaching post at the Leeds College of Art, where he worked under Henry Thubron. He also taught at the Barry Summer School in Wales in the 1960s as an assistant to Kenneth Martin before returning to London and taking a teaching post at Goldsmiths' College in 1965. He held his post at Goldsmiths' for 35 years, retiring in 2000.

Lowe lives and works in South London.

Solo exhibitions:

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1974 | Gardner Centre, University of Sussex
Lucy Milton Gallery, London |
| 1980 | Galeria Pavillon, Nowa Huta, Krakow
Sally East Gallery, London |
| 1981 | Galerie Jeanne Buytaert, Antwerp |
| 1987 | Foranea, Vimercate, Monza, Italy |
| 1990 | Arte Struktura, Volume and Void, Milan |
| 1991 | Galerie Jeanne Buytaert, Antwerp |
| 1994 | Clare Hall Gallery, Cambridge |
| 1999 | Wellcome Institute of Neurology, London |
| 2005 | The Walk Gallery, London |

Group exhibitions:

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1957 | <i>Young Contemporaries</i> , R.B.A. Galleries, London |
| 1963 | <i>Six English Painters</i> , Drian Galleries, London
<i>Drian Artists</i> , Drian Galleries, London
<i>The Geometric Environment</i> , A.I.A. Gallery, London
<i>Plus Minus Inventions</i> (with Colin Jones), A.I.A.
<i>Gallery Construction England</i> , Arts Council |
| 1964 | <i>Then and Now</i> , City Art Gallery, Leeds |
| 1966 | <i>Relief Constructions</i> , I.C.A., London
<i>Constructions</i> , Axiom Gallery, London |
| 1967 | <i>Unit-Series-Progression</i> , Arts Council (tour) |
| 1968 | <i>Cinétisme-Spectacle-Environment</i> ,
Maison de la Culture, Grenoble |

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1968 | <i>Constructions</i> , Greenwich Theatre Gallery, London
Constructions from the Arts Council Collection |
| 1969 | <i>Systeemi-Systems</i> , Amos Anderson Taidemuseo,
Helsinki |
| 1970 | <i>Space Dimensions</i> , De Zonnehof, Amersfoort,
Netherlands |
| 1971 | <i>Matrix</i> , Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol
Welsh Arts Council Gallery, Cardiff |
| 1972 | <i>Systems-Drawings-Reliefs</i> , Lucy Milton Gallery,
London
<i>Systems</i> , Whitechapel Gallery, London (and tour)
<i>Dekkers, Dilworth, Lowe, Wilmink</i> ,
Galerie Nouvelles Images, The Hague
Salon des Réalités Nouvelles, Paris
<i>Constructive Art</i> , Leicester Museum and Art Gallery |
| 1973 | <i>Systems II</i> , Polytechnic of Central London |
| 1974 | <i>Basically White</i> , I.C.A., London
IAFKG (International Work Group for Constructive
Art), Cultuurcentrum de Warande and
Cultuurcentrum Waregem, Belgium
<i>10th Biennale</i> , Palais de l'Europe, Menton, France
<i>British Painting '74</i> , Hayward Gallery, London
IAFKG, Museum der Stadt, München Gladbach,
IAFKG conference, Kunstcentrum Badhuis,
Gorinchem, Netherlands |
| 1975 | <i>Sequenzen Zwischen Weiss und Schwarz</i> ,
Museum der Stadt, Gelsenkirchen, Germany
<i>7 Englische Konstruktivisten</i> , Stadt
Kunstsammlungen, Gelsenkirchen
<i>Ways of Making</i> , Welsh Arts Council
<i>Rationale Konzept '75</i> , Galerie Pa Szezan,
Gelsenkirchen |
| 1976 | <i>Plus Minus</i> , IAFKG, Southampton Art Gallery
and Polytechnic of Central London
<i>Arte Inglese Oggi 1960-76</i> ,
Palazzo Reale, Milan
<i>Rational Concepts</i> , Art Museum, Nijmegen,
Netherlands
<i>Rational Concepts</i> , English Drawings, Kunstcentrum
Badhuis Gorinchem Engelse en Nederlandse
<i>Rationale Tekeningen</i> , De Volle Maan,
Delft, Netherlands |
| 1977 | <i>Gallery Swart</i> , Amsterdam (with John Mitchell) |

- 1977 *Dilworth, Hughes, Lowe & Steele*,
Annely Juda Fine Art, London
- 1978 *Maximal Minimal*, Amos Anderson Museum,
Helsinki (and tour)
- 1979 *Fourth Dimension in a Quadrilateral*, Kunstverein,
Unna, Germany
Schloss Buchberg, Gars am Kamp, Austria
Transformacije Papira, Etnografski Muzej, Pazin,
and Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, Croatia
Dispositions, Palac Kultury, Warsaw
- 1980 *International Collection - Laski Foundation*,
Zapiecek Gallery, Warsaw
Rajz/Drawings, Pecci Galleria, Pecs, Hungary
Arbeitskreis, Constructive Art and Architecture,
Kunsthhaus, Hamburg
Pier + Ocean, Hayward Gallery, London and Kroller
Müller Museum, Otterlo, Netherlands
8 + 8, Annely Juda Fine Art, London
Ein Künstler Ein Prinzip, Palais Liechtenstein, Vienna
Jozsefvaros Galeria, Budapest
Constructive Art and Architecture,
Museum of Architecture, Wroclaw, Poland
- 1981 *Malcolm Hughes, Peter Lowe & Alan Reynolds*,
Galerie Renée Ziegler, Zurich
- 1982 *Drawing Triennale*, Museum of Architecture,
Wroclaw Construction in Process, Budrem Factory,
Lodz, Poland
Work from Sally East Gallery, St Paul's Gallery, Leeds
Arteder Exhibition of Graphics Arts, Bilbao
- 1983 *Rajz/Drawings*, Pecci Galleria, Pecs, Hungary
- 1984 *Norman Dilworth, Peter Lowe, Kenneth Martin*,
Galerie Ornis, The Hague
- 1986 *Distances*, Chapelle Saint-Louis de la Salpêtrière,
Paris and Galerie Jeanne Buytaert, Het Hessenhuis,
Antwerp
Art and Science (colour section), Venice Biennale
Arbeitskreis Kunstsommer, Kunststation,
Kleinsassen, Germany
Systematic Constructive Drawings, York University
Utopia and Reality-Project, Lodz, Poland
Konkrete Multiples, Galerie L'Idée, Zoetermeer,
Netherlands
- 1987 *Biennial of Graphic Art*, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 1987 *Art & Design from the University of East Anglia*,
York City Art Gallery
Inaugural Exhibition, Patricia Knight Fine Art,
London
Geometric Miniatures, Galerie De Sluis.
Leidschendam, Netherlands
CRASH, Wright Museum of Art, Beloit College,
Wisconsin, USA
- 1988 *Oeuvres Contemporaines*, Musée de Grenoble
5th International Graphic Exhibition,
Istituto per la Cultura, Catania, Italy
- 1989 *Aus dem Würfel (From the cube)*,
Karl Ernst Osthaus Museum, Hagen, Germany
Art Construct, Project 30 x 30, The Hague
Arte Sistemático y Constructivo,
Centro Cultural, Madrid
- 1990 *Britische Systematische*, Foundation for Concrete
and Constructed Art, Zurich
Gesture and Memory, European Mail Art,
Italian Cultural Institute, Dublin
- 1992 *Red Cross*, Artists' Museum, Lodz
Der Prix Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria
Stichting IDAC, Zoetermeer, Netherlands
Crno & Belo, Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana
- 1995 *Protagonistov Konstruktivne Umetnosti, #*
Moderna Galerija, Ljubljana
- 1998 *Grossbritannien, Konstruktiv Konkret*,
Haus Dacheroden, Erfurt, Germany
- 1999 *Ryszard Winiarski, Jeden Obraz i Wiele Dedykacje*,
Galeria Stefan Szydłowski, Warsaw
Anthony Hill, Jeffrey Steele & Peter Lowe,
Galeria Stara, Lublin, Poland
- 2000 *Art Concret, Espace de l'Art Concret*,
Mouans-Sartoux, France
Hill, Lowe, Steele, Raczko, Winiarski, Stabinski,
Kuchnia Galeria, Warsaw
- 2001 *Confrontation and Continuity of New Tendencies*,
Istarska Sabonica, Porec, Croatia
- 2002 *22 of the Future for the Future of Vukovar*,
Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb
- 2003 *The Trees of Pythagoras*, Mondriaanhuys,
Amersfoort, Netherlands
10 Jahre Forum Konkrete Kunst, St Peterskirche,
Erfurt, Germany

- 2003 *Das Entgrenzte Bild*, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen, Germany (and tour)
- 2004 *Multiple, Graphic und Objekt*, Galerie St Johann, Saarbrücken, Germany
The London Group Open, Menier Gallery, London
- 2005 *40 Grafika Opera Prima*, Muzeum Milana Dobesa, Bratislava, Slovakia
Expanded Painting, Karlin Hall, Biennale 2, Prague
The London Group, Bankside Gallery, London
Symposium Gorinchem, Stadhuis, Gorinchem
Elements of Abstraction, Southampton City Art Gallery
22 of the Future for the Future of Vukovar, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz
Casa per l'Arte, Fondazione Paolo Minoli, Cantù, Italy
White-Black, Vasarely Museum, Budapest
- 2007 *Nabytki 2004-2006*, Muzeum Chelmskie, Chelm, Poland
Towards a Rational Aesthetic, Osborne Samuel Gallery, London
- 2008 *The Rational Eye: Geometric, Optical, Kinetic and Programmed Art*, International Centre of Graphic Arts (MGLC), Ljubljana
Okó Zwiedzione, Galeria EL, Centrum Sztuki, Elblag, Poland
British Abstract Art 1950-1985, Portland Gallery, London
A Rational Aesthetic, Southampton City Art Gallery
- 2010 *Painting, Process and Expansion*, Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Leidenschaftlich Exakt, Sammlung Dieter und Gertraud Bogner, Vienna
Construction and its Shadow, Sculpture Galleries, Leeds Art Gallery
- 2011 *Construction in Process 1981, The Community That Came*, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz
From Intuition to Certitude, Chiesa dell'Immacolata, Castello di Lipari, Italy
L'arte nel Bicchiere, La Collezione d'Arte Moderna di Franco, Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy
Construction & Systems Art from Britain, *The Conversation*, Von Bartha Collection, Basel
- 2012 *Modern Art and Universalism, Correspondences*, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz
Reflections on Concrete Art (Bill Culbert, Peter Lowe, Victor Pasmore & Jeffrey Steele), Laurent Delaye Gallery
Experiment in Time, Laurent Delaye Gallery, London
Frieze Masters, Dan Galeria, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Concretos Paralelos, Centro Culturale Britannico, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 2013 *Keywords*, Institute of International Visual Arts, London and Tate Liverpool
Die Kunst Geht in die Stadt, Erfurt, Germany
- 2014 *From David Bomberg to Paula Rego*, *The London Group*, Southampton City Art Gallery
Conversations Around Marlow Moss, &Model Gallery, Leeds
Automatic Art, GV Gallery, London
The Social Bases of Abstract Art, Updown Gallery, Ramsgate
A Fine Line: Concrete, Constructivist and Minimalist Art, Austin Desmond Gallery, London
- 2015 *Defining Movements: A Journey Through British Modern Art*, Gosport Art Gallery

Work in public collections

Arts Council Collection, London
Victoria and Albert Museum, London
Musée de Grenoble
Museo de Arte Moderno, Fundacion Soto, Venezuela
University of East Anglia
National Museum, Warsaw
Peter Stuyvesant Foundation, Amsterdam
Kemin Kaupunki Taidemuseo, Kemi, Finland
Stedelijk Museum, Schiedam
Alvar Alto Foundation, Pino Torinesi, Turin
Museum of Modern Art, Zagreb
Commanderie Sint Jan, Nijmegen
Museum of Art, Chelm, Poland
Tate Britain
Southampton City Art Gallery
Mondriaanhuys, Amersfoort, Holland
Peter C. Ruppert Collection, Würzburg
Henry Moore Institute, Leeds

