

# HOLLIS TAGGART GALLERIES

## SHEILA ISHAM

### BIOGRAPHY

1927 Born in New York City  
Lives in New York City and Sagaponak, NY

### EDUCATION

1948–49 Studied at University of Geneva  
1950 B.A. from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania  
1950–54 Studied at Berlin Academy of Fine Arts  
1962–65 Studied Classical Chinese Calligraphy in Hong Kong  
1982 Studied Siddha Yoga in India

### SELECTED ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

#### 1950s

*Sheila Isham*, April 22–May 19, 1954. Galerie Springer, Berlin.

#### 1960s

*Sheila Isham: Impressions in Black and White*, May 6–26, 1960. Franz Bader Gallery, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham*, 1961. Nantucket Little Gallery, Massachusetts.

*Sheila Isham*, May 1961. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

*Recent Paintings and Prints by Sheila Isham*, June 6–23, 1962. Franz Bader Gallery, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham: Prints*, January 30–February 5, 1964, Alliance Française, Hong Kong.

*Sheila Isham*, 1964. Chatham Galleries, Hong Kong.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings*, April 20–May 1, 1964. Nihonbashi Gallery, Tokyo. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham*, January 28–February 16, 1966. Franz Bader Gallery, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham*, May 1966. Byron Gallery, New York City.

*Sheila Isham*, June 4–22, 1968. Jefferson Place Gallery, Washington D.C.

*Recent Work by Sheila Isham*, May 14–31, 1969. Jefferson Place Gallery, Washington D.C.

*Sheila Isham*, 1969. Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York.

#### 1970s

*Sheila Isham*, May 6–30, 1970. French & Company, Inc., New York City. (Brochure)

*Sheila Isham*, November 18–December 5, 1970. Jefferson Place Gallery, Washington D.C.

*Sheila Isham, Paintings*, August 21–31, 1971. Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham, Recent Work*, March 2–April 9, 1972. The Brockton Art Center, Massachusetts. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham: Peintures Acryliques 1972*, January 24–February 28, 1973. Centre Culturel Américain, Paris. (Brochure)

*Sheila Isham*, February 9–March 2, 1974. Jefferson Place Gallery, Washington D.C.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings, 1969–1973*, February 9–March 10, 1974. Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Traveled to Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo New York, June 4–30, 1974. (Brochure)

*Sheila Isham*, 1975. Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.

*Sheila Isham*, March 9–April 3, 1976. Pyramid Galleries, Ltd., Washington, D.C. (Brochure)

*Faces of Spirit: Selected Works of Sheila Isham*, February–March 27, 1977. Organized by Osuna Gallery, Washington, D.C. Traveled to the Metropolitan Museum and Art Center, Miami, Florida, the

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New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana, the West Indies, and 12 countries in Latin American, the Caribbean, and South America, including Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, and Guatemala. (Catalogue)

*Souffle d'Haiti*, les derniers oeuvres de l'artiste Sheila, May 31–June 15, 1977. Le Musée d'Art Haitien du Collège St. Pierre, Port-au-Prince.

*Sheila Isham*, 1978. United States State Department, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham*, closed February 7, 1978. Palm Beach Gallery, Florida.

## 1980s

*Sheila Isham*, 1980. Osuna Gallery, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham*, 1980. United States State Department, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham: East-West, Painting / Poems*, January 30–April 5, 1981. National Museum of American Art (formerly the National Collection of Fine Arts), Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham: Drawings*, April 30–May 30, 1981. Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Buffalo, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Recent Work*, May 1–June 14, 1981. Albright–Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham*, 1982. Hood College, Frederick, Maryland.

*Sheila Isham: Mythic Rhyme Series*, February 23–March 20, 1982. Phoenix II West Gallery, International Square, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings, 1971–1981*, March 10–April 6, 1982. Addison Ripley Gallery, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham*, June 1985. Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Animal Myth Series*, June 20–July 1, 1985. Peri-Renneth Gallery, Southampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: "Creatures Large & Small V,"* August 18–September 15, 1985. Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: White Series*, September 27–October 23, 1986. Benton Gallery, Southampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham*, Fall 1986. Vered Gallery, East Hampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings and Works on Paper*, July 1987. Benton Gallery, Southampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham*, 1988. Amerika Haus Berlin.

*Sheila Isham*, 1988. Galerie Springer, Berlin.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings and Works on Paper*, January 1989. Sponsored by The United States Information Agency (USIA), held at Triveni Gallery, New Delhi, American Center, Bombay, and M.S. University, Baroda, India. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham*, May 2–27, 1989. Ingber Gallery, New York City.

## 1990s

*Sheila Isham*, closed July 5, 1990. Benton Gallery, Southampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings and Works on Paper*, February 26–March 26, 1991. Co-sponsored by the United States Information Service, Bonn, Germany and the German-American Society Cologne, held at the Amerika Haus Cologne. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham: New Paintings: The Bull Series*, April 10–May 4, 1991. Ruth Siegel Gallery, New York City.

*Sheila Isham*, 1992. Benton Gallery, Southampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Mytické eskapády kresby, koláže / Mythical Escapades: drawings, collages*, August 1–October 25, 1992. Centrum české grafiky / Centre of Czech Graphic Art, Prague. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham: Mythical Escapades*, September 11–November 14, 1993. Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Atlanta. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham*, 1994. Eri Gallery, Budapest.

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*Sheila Isham: Paintings and Collage*, February 11–March 13, 1994. Philharmonic Galleries, Philharmonic Center for the Arts, Naples, Florida.

*Sheila Isham: Paintings & Drawings*, February 11–March 13, 1994. Naples Museum of Art, Florida.

*Sheila Isham*, 1995. Cultural Center of Zalaegerszeg, Hungary.

*Sheila Isham*, 1995. American Center, Sofia, Bulgaria.

*Sheila Isham*, 1995. Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, Romania.

*Sheila Isham: Wild Animals: A Painter's Vision of a Shared World*, March 1–April 30, 1996. Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta, Georgia. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham*, 1997. Museum of Modern Art, New Orleans, Louisiana.

*Sheila Isham*, 1998. Gallery Mx, Riga, Latvia.

*Sheila Isham: Cosmic Earth Paintings: The Bull Series*, May–October 1998. The RiverPark Atrium, Norwalk, Connecticut.

*Sheila Isham: Creatures*, August 22–September 8, 1998. Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Mythical Escapade Series: Collages, Oasis Series: Oils*, September 26–October 18, 1998. Arlene Bujese Gallery, East Hampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: Cosmic Earth Bull Series*, November 11–December 7, 1999. Gregory Gallery, New York City. (Catalogue)

## 2000s

*Sheila Isham*, Spring 2000. Gregory Gallery, New York City.

*Sheila Isham*, May 20–June 24, 2000. Ericson Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Sheila Isham*, May 26–June 10, 2000. Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania.

*Sheila Isham: Three Sacred Series: Cosmic Bulls, Mystical Poems of Kabir, Christ's Presence and Passion*, February 8–April 18, 2001. The Onisaburo Gallery, the Interfaith Center of New York, New York City.

*Sheila Isham: Oasis Series: Recent Paintings & Works on Paper*, July 12–29, 2001. Island Arts Gallery, Newport, Rhode Island.

*Sheila Isham: Oil Paintings and Works on Papers*, April 1–7, 2002. Shridharani Art Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam Arts Center, New Delhi.

*Sheila Isham: Feathers and Flight*, July 31–August 17, 2003. Island Arts Gallery, Newport, Rhode Island.

*Sheila Isham*, 2004. Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham*, 2004. Arlene Bujese Gallery, New York.

*Sheila Isham* (retrospective), opened October 13, 2004. Ludwig Museum at the Russian State Museum, St. Petersburg. (Monograph)

*Sheila Isham: The Victoria Series*, February 24–April 24, 2005. National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

*Sheila Isham: Art Boxes, Collected Works on Paper*, June 18–July 31, 2005. Guild Hall, East Hampton, New York.

*Sheila Isham: A Retrospective*, reception held on September 22, 2005. Studio 450, New York City.

*Sheila Isham: Cosmic Earth – Oasis Series – In The Gallery II*, March 3–28, 2007. Walter Wickiser Gallery, New York City. (Catalogue)

*Sheila Isham: Tantric Interplay*, March 30–April 30, 2007. 4 Star Gallery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

*Sheila Isham: Art Boxes and Paintings*, April 4–30, 2007. Hamilton East Public Library, Noblesville, Indiana.

*[Sheila] Isham Retrospective - A Journey of Six Cultures Without Borders*, April 15–May 25, 2007. The Anderson Center for the Arts, Indiana.

*Sheila Isham: Art Boxes - Paintings and Poems*, April 15–29, 2007. Anderson Public Library, Indiana.

*Sheila Isham: Myth & Mystic Dream Series, Art Boxes, Paintings & Monoprints*, May 2–15, 2007. Carmel Clay Public Library, Indiana.

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*Sheila Isham*, June 1–August 18, 2007. Jacqueline Casey Hudgens Center for the Arts, Duluth, Georgia.

*Sheila Isham*, November 7, 2007–February 14, 2008. The Cultural Center of Fine Arts, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

*Sheila Isham*, February 15–May 11, 2008. Museum of Arts & Science, Daytona Beach, Florida.

*Myth and Interpretation: The Works of Visionary Artist Sheila Isham*, opened January 10, 2009. Present Global Art Gallery, West Palm Beach, Florida.

## 2010s

*Sheila Isham: Images of a Global Journey*, May 28–30, 2010. Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. (Catalogue)

*Cosmic Earth Bull Series by Sheila Isham*, February 28–April 1, 2011. Lyceum Gallery, Montaukett Learning Resource Center, Eastern Campus of Suffolk County Community College, Riverhead, New York.

*Sheila Isham: The Beast in Art*, March 1–28, 2012. Levitas Center for the Arts, Southampton Cultural Center, New York.

## 2020s

*Sheila Isham: Cosmic Myth*, February 11–March 7, 2021. Chase Contemporary, New York City.

*Beyond the Brush: Sheila Isham, 1969–1978*, February 9–March 18, 2023. Hollis Taggart, New York City. (Catalogue)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Eichenberg, Fritz, and Charles B. Fahs (Preface). *Sheila Isham*. Exh. cat. Tokyo: Nihonbashi Gallery, 1964.

"Sheila Isham's Paintings." *Mainichi Daily News*, April 2, 1964.

Grilli, Elise. [Review of the Nihonbashi Gallery exhibition]. *Japanese Times*, April 10, 1964.

Forgey, Benjamin. *Sunday Star* (Washington, DC), February 6, 1966.

Richard, Paul. "Talent Around Town—On Exhibit." *Washington Post*, May 18, 1969.

Kline, Katherine G. "Reviews." *ARTnews* (May–June 1970).

Gruen, John. "Galleries and Museums." *New York Magazine*, May 13, 1970.

Brumer, Miriam. "Images, New York." *Arts Magazine* (Summer 1970).

Forgey, Benjamin. [Review of the Jefferson Place Gallery exhibition]. *Evening Star*, November 20, 1970.

Richard, Paul. "Sheila Isham, Lifelike Abstracts." *Washington Post*, November 20, 1970.

Fry, Edward (Preface), and Harry H. Schnabel, Jr. (Director's Acknowledgements). *Sheila Isham*. Exh. cat. Brockton, MA: The Brockton Art Center, 1972.

Drysdale, Susan. "Brockton's Airy Isham Paintings." *Christian Science Monitor*, March 27, 1972.

Fry, Edward F. *Sheila Isham: Peintures Acryliques 1972*. Exh. brochure. Paris: Centre Culturel Américain, 1973.

Marchand, Sabine. "Les Arts." *Le Figaro*, February 3, 1973.

Dittiere, Monique. "Arts." *L'Aurore*, February 15, 1973.

Peppiatt, Michael. "Paris: Mid-January." *Art International* (March 1973).

Fry, Edward F., and Roy Slade (Introduction). *Sheila Isham: Paintings, 1969-1973*. Exh. cat. Washington, DC: Corcoran Gallery of Art, 1974.

Forgey, Benjamin. "Returning Home to Open a Show." *Washington Star News*, February 8, 1974.

Richard, Paul. "Art, with Credentials." *Washington Post*, February 9, 1974.

Cimons, Marlene. "4 Washington Women: A Study in Styles." *Los Angeles Times*, February 17, 1974.

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- "AAFSW [The Association of American Foreign Service Women] Plans April Luncheon, Trip to Winterthur." *Department of State Newsletter*, issue 154 (March 1974): 35.
- Dobbs, Lillian. "Sheila Isham's 'Faces' Exhibit Shows Artist's Cultural Immersion," *Miami News*, February 25, 1977.
- Jordan, George E. "'Faces, Spirits.'" April 28, 1977.
- Le Musée d'Art Haïtien du Collège St. Pierre, Port-au-Prince, *Souffle d'Haïti*, les derniers oeuvres de l'artiste Sheila, May 31–June 15, 1977.
- "Art: Souffle d'Haïti." *Pot Pourri*, June 9, 1977.
- Taylor, Joshua (Introduction), and C. C. Wong. *East and West: Painting | Poems by Sheila Isham*. Exh. cat. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1981.
- Forgey, Benjamin. "A Study in Oriental Influence." *Washington Star*, February 6, 1981.
- Fry, Edward F., Robert T. Buck (Foreword), and Charlotta Kotik (Preface). *Sheila Isham: Recent Work*. Exh. cat. Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Fine Arts Academy, 1981.
- Slivka, Rose C. S. "From the Studio." *East Hampton Star*, October 9, 1986.
- Kuspit, Donald. *Sheila Isham: Paintings and Works on Paper*. Exh. cat. Washington, DC: The United States Information Agency, 1989.
- Ingber Gallery, New York, *Sheila Isham*, May 2–27, 1989.
- "'Twas mixed doubles." *Daily News* (New York), May 2, 1989.
- Norwich, Billy. "Uptown, Downtown." *Palm Beach Daily News*, May 5, 1989.
- Kuspit, Donald. *Sheila Isham: Paintings and Works on Paper*. Exh. cat. Bonn: The United States Information Service, 1991.
- Kuspit, Donald. *Sheila Isham: Mytické eskapády kresby, koláže / Mythical Escapades: drawings, collages*. Exh. cat. Prague: Středoevropská Galerie A Nakladatelství / Central Europe Gallery and Publishing House, 1992.
- Lytle, Douglas. "World Artist Mounts Exhibit." *Prague Post 2*, no. 42, October 20–26, 1992.
- Kuspit, Donald, and William U. Eiland. *Sheila Isham: Mythical Escapades*. Exh. cat. Atlanta: Georgia Museum of Art, 1993.
- Kuspit, Donald, and Kay Davis. *Sheila Isham: Wild Animals: A Painter's Vision of a Shared World*. Exh. cat. Atlanta: Fernbank Museum of Natural History, 1996.
- Marcus, Stanley. "Combining Abstract and Figurative Imagery." *American Artist* 61, no. 655 (February 1997): 58-61.
- Borovsky, Alexander, and Donald Kuspit. *Sheila Isham: Cosmic Earth Bull Series*. Exh. cat. New York: Gregory Gallery, 1999.
- Bass, Ruth. "Sheila Isham at Gregory." *ARTnews* 99, no. 4 (April 2000): 167.
- Sozanski, Edward J. "Real Abstract." *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 16, 2000.
- Canaday Library, Bryn Mawr College, Pa., *Sheila Isham*, May 26–June 10, 2000.
- Borovsky, Alexander, and Yevgenia Petrova (Foreword). *Sheila Isham*. Exh. cat. St. Petersburg: Palace Editions and the Russian State Museum, 2005.
- "Sheila Isham's The Victoria Series at NMWA," *artdaily*, 2005. [artdaily.cc/news/12987/Sheila-Isham-s-The-Victoria-Series-at-NMWA#.XmhIPxdKiu5](http://artdaily.cc/news/12987/Sheila-Isham-s-The-Victoria-Series-at-NMWA#.XmhIPxdKiu5).
- Borovsky, Alexander D. *Sheila Isham: Cosmic Earth – Oasis Series*. Exh. cat. New York: Walter Wickiser Gallery, 2007.
- Levitas Center for the Arts, Southampton Cultural Center, N.Y., *Sheila Isham: The Beast in Art*, March 1–28, 2012.
- Landes, Jennifer. "The Art Scene: 02.23.12: Isham in Southampton." *East Hampton Star*, February 21, 2012. [easthamptonstar.com/archive/art-scene-022312](http://easthamptonstar.com/archive/art-scene-022312)
- "A Beastly Show at the Southampton Cultural Center." *27 East*, February 24, 2012. [27east.com/arts/a-beastly-show-at-the-southampton-cultural-center-1368095/](http://27east.com/arts/a-beastly-show-at-the-southampton-cultural-center-1368095/)
- Chernick, Karen. "Works by three overlooked Abstract Expressionists, newly represented by Hollis Taggart, head to Art Miami." *The Art Newspaper*, November 22, 2022.

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theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/22/abstract-expressionists-sheila-isham-albert-kotin-and-norman-carton-hollis-taggart-miami

Lewy, Patrica L. *Beyond the Brush: Sheila Isham, 1969–1978*. Exh. cat. New York: Hollis Taggart, 2023.

"Art Industry News: From High Fashion to High Art, the Chicest Medium of the Moment Is... Mud + Other Stories." *Artnet*, November 23, 2022, news.artnet.com/art-world/art-industry-news-from-high-fashion-to-high-art-the-chicest-medium-of-the-moment-is-mud-other-stories-2215708.

"Celtic Coins Stolen from German Museum, New York Representative Investigated Over Met Gala Invite, and More: Morning Links for November 23, 2022." *ARTnews*, November 23, 2022, artnews.com/art-news/news/celtic-coins-stolen-museum-carolyn-maloney-met-gala-morning-links-1234647709.

"Here's Your Go-To Guide to All the Fairs Taking Place During Miami Art Week 2022." *Artnet*, November 25, 2022, news.artnet.com/market/go-to-guide-to-fairs-art-basel-miami-beach-2213645.

Irwin, Michael. "Which Artists Showed with New Galleries in Miami?" *Ocula*, December 7, 2022, ocula.com/magazine/art-news/which-artists-showed-with-new-galleries-in-miami/?utm\_source=Email&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=Notifications.

"Fralin's new exhibitions explore diverse perspectives." *The Daily Progress*, February 8, 2023, dailyprogress.com/entertainment/arts/fralins-new-exhibitions-explore-diverse-perspectives/article\_afdc675e-a6b8-11ed-841b-93eb1e345e27.html.

Stanley, Alessandra. "Sheila Isham." *Air Mail*, March 8, 2023, airmail.news/arts-intel/events/sheila-isham.

Porterfield, Carlie. "Chelsea gallery Hollis Taggart expanding again despite fears of a slowing market." *The Art Newspaper*, August 10, 2023, theartnewspaper.com/2023/08/10/hollis-taggart-chelsea-gallery-expanding-new-york.

"Sheila Isham, artist whose work spanned continents, dies at 96." *The Washington Post*, April 12, 2024, washingtonpost.com/obituaries/2024/04/12/sheila-isham-artist-dead.

## LOANED NEARLY 50 WORKS TO ART IN EMBASSIES (UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE)

### SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Addison Gallery of America Art, Andover, Massachusetts

The Baker Museum, Artis—Naples, Florida

The Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland

Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania

Buffalo AKG Art Museum, New York

Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University, New York

The Fralin Museum of Art, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, Athens

Guild Hall, East Hampton, New York

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Katzen Art Center, American University, Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Luther W. Brady Art Gallery, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota

The Museum of Modern Art, New York

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Connecticut

New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana

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New York Public Library (The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs)  
Oklahoma City Museum of Art  
Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, New York  
Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania  
Princeton University Art Museum, New Jersey  
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California  
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut

*Researched and compiled by Andrea Lynn Kutsenkow, Researcher and Archivist, Sheila Isham  
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