Sam Francis
America 1923-1994

Blue Balls
1960
Gouache on paper

Sam Francis exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955, 1956 (solo), 1957, 1959 (solo), 1960, 1962, and 1963.

This specific painting was exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1962.

Collection of Tyrell-Knott Family

Mary Bass Bayley
America 1874-1959

Untitled
circa 1950-1954
Gouache and pencil on paper

Mary Bass Bayley exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954.

Collection of the Bayley Family

Mary Bass Bayley
America 1874-1959

Mt Rainier over Lake Union
circa 1950-1954
Gouache and pencil on paper

Mary Bass Bayley exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954.

Collection of the Bayley Family

Mary Bass Bayley
America 1874-1959

Kalakala Ferry over Bay
circa 1950-1954
Gouache and pencil on paper

Mary Bass Bayley exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954.

Collection of the Bayley Family

John Matsudaira
America 1922-2007

Swaying Trees
1959
Casein on board

John Matsudaira exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1959, 1960, 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

In honor of Rebecca Valenzuela, "Thank you for teaching me to be a better man and a better father."

Paul Horiuchi
Japan/America 1906-1999

Untitled
1961
Casein and rice paper collage on board

Paul Horiuchi exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1957 (solo), 1958, 1959 (solo), 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

In honor of Rebecca Valenzuela, "Thank you for teaching me to be a better man and a better father."

Paul Horiuchi
Japan/America 1906-1999

A Cleft in White
1963
Casein and rice paper collage on canvas

Paul Horiuchi exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1957 (solo), 1958, 1959 (solo), 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

In honor of Rebecca Valenzuela, "Thank you for teaching me to be a better man and a better father."

Paul Horiuchi
Japan/America 1906-1999

Colors of the Past
1963
Casein and rice paper collage on board

Paul Horiuchi exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1957 (solo), 1958, 1959 (solo), 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

In honor of Rebecca Valenzuela, "Thank you for teaching me to be a better man and a better father."

Paul Horiuchi
Japan/America 1906-1999

Artifacts of Genroku
no date
Casein and rice paper collage on canvas

Paul Horiuchi exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1957 (solo), 1958, 1959 (solo), 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

In honor of Rebecca Valenzuela, "Thank you for teaching me to be a better man and a better father."

Sam Francis
America 1923-1994

Untitled
1954
Watercolor, collage, and ink

Sam Francis exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955, 1956 (solo), 1957, 1959 (solo), 1960, 1962, and 1963.

Collection of Pamela Hyde Smith

John Matsudaira
America 1922-2007

Summer Morn
1958
Oil on canvas

John Matsudaira exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1959, 1960, 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

Collection of Ann Matsudaira Otani

Unknown Artist
dates unknown

Untitled (caricature of John Matsudaira painting in his studio)
no date
Watercolor, gouache, graphite, and oil

Collection of Ann Matsudaira Otani

Jeannette Jackson Murphy
America 1932-2025

Untitled
1963
Oil on board

Jeannette Jackson Murphy exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1957.

Collection of Megan Murphy and Gregg Lachow

John Franklin Koenig
America 1924-2008

Cinghus
1962
Oil on canvas

John Franklin Koenig exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1958 (solo) and 1960 (solo).

Collection of John and Claire Koenig

John Franklin Koenig
America 1924-2008

Untitled
1948
Oil on mattress cover

John Franklin Koenig exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1958 (solo) and 1960 (solo).

Collection of John and Claire Koenig

John Franklin Koenig
America 1924-2008

Zoologischer Garten
1952
Paper collage mounted to board

John Franklin Koenig exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1958 (solo) and 1960 (solo).

Collection of John and Claire Koenig

John Franklin Koenig
America 1924-2008

Untitled
1955
Oil on board

John Franklin Koenig exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1958 (solo) and 1960 (solo).

Collection of John and Claire Koenig

Al Everett
America 1917-1965

Passion
1961-1962
Mixed media on masonite

Al Everett exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1960 (solo), 1961, 1962 (solo), and 1963.

Collection of Masao Everett

Al Everett
America 1917-1965

Festival
1959
Mixed media on masonite

Al Everett exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1960 (solo), 1961, 1962 (solo), and 1963.

Collection of Masao Everett

Al Everett
America 1917-1965

Moon Mist
1962
Mixed media on canvas

Al Everett exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1960 (solo), 1961, 1962 (solo), and 1963.

Collection of Masao Everett

Al Everett
America 1917-1965

On Sunday Never
circa 1963
Mixed media on canvas

Al Everett exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1960 (solo), 1961, 1962 (solo), and 1963.

Collection of Masao Everett

Al Everett
America 1917-1965

Untitled (view from the artist's home in Japan)
circa 1957
Watercolor

Al Everett exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1960 (solo), 1961, 1962 (solo), and 1963.

Collection of Masao Everett

Henri Michaux
Belgium/France 1899-1984

Untitled
no date
Ink on paper

Henri Michaux exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954 (solo), 1955, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1962, and 1964.

Collection of Masao Everett

Carl Holty
Germany/America 1900-1973

Iron Might
1956
Oil on canvas

Carl Holty exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954, 1956, 1957, and 1962.

Collection of Masao Everett

Val M. Laigo
America 1930-1992

Mailed Fist
1963
Mixed media on canvas

Val Laigo exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1961, 1962, and 1963 (solo).

Collection of Adrian Laigo & Cynthia Del Rosario

Val M. Laigo
America 1930-1992

Dilemma of the Atom
1953
Oil on canvas

Val Laigo exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1961, 1962, and 1963 (solo).

Collection of Austreberta G. Laigo

W. Paul Jenkins
America 1923-2012

Lunar Moth
1954
Watercolor and ink

W. Paul Jenkins exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954, 1955 (solo), 1956, 1957, 1960, 1962, and 1964.

Seattle Art Museum, Eugene Fuller Memorial Collection, 55.70

Jeanne Kosnick-Kloss
Germany/France 1892-1966

Abstraction
1929
Tempera on paper

Jeanne Kosnick-Kloss exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954.

Seattle Art Museum, Gift of Zoe Dusanne, 58.96

Maria Helena Andrés
(Maria Helena Coelho Ribeiro)
Brazil 1922-Living, age 104

Phantom Ship No. 1
1961
Pastel

Maria Helena Andrés exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1962.

Seattle Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Zoe Dusanne, 62.175

Vera Haller
Hungary 1910-1991

Borderline No. IV
1961
Oil on paper mounted to board

Vera Haller exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1958 and 1962.

Seattle Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Zoe Dusanne, 62.177

Charmion von Wiegand
America 1896-1983

The Terrace of Jade
1952
Oil on canvas

Charmion von Wiegand exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954, 1956, 1958 (solo), and 1962.

Seattle Art Museum, Gift of Zoe Dusanne, 56.40

John Matsudaira
America 1922-2007

High Density
1962
Casein on cardboard

John Matsudaira exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1959, 1960, 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

Gift of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, WSU by transfer in 2026 to Cascadia Art Museum

Vera Fraser
America 1923-1963

Trophy
circa 1947
Oil on canvas

Vera Fraser exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955.

Gift of the Jordan Schnizter Museum of Art, WSU by transfer in 2026 to Cascadia Art Museum

Virginia Banks
America 1920-1985

Disaggregation
1949
Oil on canvas

Virginia Banks exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1950, 1951, 1952 (solo), and 1958 (solo).

Private Collection

Milt Simons
America 1923-1973

Day Street South
1961
Oil on canvas

Milt Simons never exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery.

Private Collection

Beulah Loomis Hyde
America 1886-1983

Untitled
1955
Oil on canvas

The Lake Union Steam Plant depicted in this painting was within viewing distance from the Dusanne Gallery.

Beulah Loomis Hyde exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955 and was also a patron of the gallery.

Collection of Pamela Hyde Smith

Beulah Loomis Hyde
America 1886-1983

Church
circa 1945-1950
Oil on canvas

Beulah Loomis Hyde exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955 and was also a patron of the gallery.

Collection of Pamela Hyde Smith

Patricia K. Nicholson
America 1894-1978

San Chapelle (window), Paris
1956
Tempera on wood panel

Patricia K. Nicholson exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1950, 1951, 1952, 1956, and 1957.

Cascadia Art Museum, Norman and L. Jane Hastings Johnston Collection, 2023.24.4

John Franklin Koenig
America 1924-2008

Aoshima Grey
1962
Oil on canvas

John Franklin Koenig exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1958 (solo) and 1960 (solo).

Anonymous Gift to Cascadia Art Museum, 2026.2.3

Louise Lewis Gilbert
America 1900-1987

Rainy Sunday
1938
Oil on canvas

This painting depicts the Madison Temple Church of God in Christ at 2239 E Madison St. in Seattle. Zoe Dusanne's Aunt Jessie owned and operated a restaurant called Jessie's Kitchen at 2229 E Madison, which can be seen to the right of the churches stairway in this painting.

Louise Lewis Gilbert had a solo exhibition at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955.

Cascadia Art Museum, Gift of Archer/Eklund Collection, 2025.6.1

Beulah Loomis Hyde
America 1886-1983

Pole Mill
circa 1950-1953
Oil on canvas

Beulah Loomis Hyde exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955 and was also a patron of the gallery.

Cascadia Art Museum, Gift of Gretchen and Don Campbell, Tacoma, WA, 2023.19.2

Glen Alps
America 1914-1996

Figures
1954
Screenprint on paper

Glen Alps received a solo exhibition at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954. This screenprint was included in the exhibition.

Cascadia Art Museum, Gift of David F. Martin and Dominic Zambito, 2021.6.4

John Matsudaira
America 1922-2007

Quiet Motion and Blue
1961
Oil on canvas

John Matsudaira exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1959, 1960, 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

Cascadia Art Museum, Gift of the Matsudaira Family, 2020.4.1

George Tsutakawa
America 1910-1997

Rescue No. 4
1952
Oil on board

George Tsutakawa exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, and 1958 (solo).

Estate of George Tsutakawa

George Tsutakawa
America 1910-1997

Rescue No. 2
1951
Oil on board

George Tsutakawa exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, and 1958 (solo).

Estate of George Tsutakawa

George Tsutakawa
America 1910-1997

Ikada No. 4
1951
Oil on wood panel

George Tsutakawa exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, and 1958 (solo).

Estate of George Tsutakawa

Glen Alps
America 1914-1996

Construction
circa 1953
Metal and wood assemblage

Glen Alps received a solo exhibition at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1954. This assemblage was included in the exhibition.

Private Collection

Kenjiro Nomura
1896-1956

Shopping Center
1950
Oil on wood panel

Kenjiro Nomura exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952 and 1953.

Collection of Lindsey and Carolyn Echelbarger

Paul Horiuchi, George Tsutakawa, Zoe Dusanne, John Matsudaira, and Kenjiro Nomura at the Zoe Dusanne Gallery, 1952

Kenjiro Nomura's painting "Shopping Center" can be seen directly above Dusanne and Horiuchi's abstract can be seen to the right of the Nomura.

Photo: Elmer Ogawa, Courtesy of the Matsudaira Family

Paul Horiuchi
Japan/America 1906-1999

Untitled
1961
Enamel on board

Paul Horiuchi exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1952, 1953, 1957 (solo), 1958, 1959 (solo), 1961 (solo), 1962, and 1963 (solo).

In honor of Rebecca Valenzuela, "Thank you for teaching me to be a better man and a better father."

William Hixson
America 1922-2015

Vinculum Rosé
1954
Oil on canvas

William Hixson exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955 (solo) and 1959 (solo).

Private Collection

Ephemera from Masao Everett
1956-1977
Photographic prints

Collection of Masao Everett

Walter Isaacs
America 1886-1964

Untitled
1963
Oil on canvas

Walter Isaacs exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1956 (solo).

Private Collection

Guy Anderson
America 1906-1998

Channel by Storm
1959
Oil on board

Guy Anderson exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1950, 1952 (solo), 1957, and 1958.

Cascadia Art Museum, Gift of the Estate of
Austin M. Case, M.D., 2020.1.1

Louise Lewis Gilbert
America 1900-1987

Rainy Sunday
1938
Oil on canvas

This painting depicts the Madison Temple Church of God in Christ at 2239 E Madison St. in Seattle. Zoe Dusanne's Aunt Jessie owned and operated a restaurant called Jessie's Kitchen at 2229 E Madison, which can be seen to the right of the churches stairway in this painting.

Louise Lewis Gilbert had a solo exhibition at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1955.

Cascadia Art Museum, Gift of Archer/Eklund Collection, 2025.6.1

Patricia K. Nicholson
America 1894-1978

San Chapelle (window), Paris
1956
Tempera on wood panel

Patricia K. Nicholson exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1950, 1951, 1952, 1956, and 1957.

Cascadia Art Museum, Norman and L. Jane Hastings Johnston Collection, 2023.24.4

Walter Isaacs
America 1886-1964

Untitled
1963
Oil on canvas

Walter Isaacs exhibited at Zoe Dusanne Gallery in 1956 (solo).

Private Collection

The Art of Seeing is a celebration of the life and career of Seattle's prominent black cultural icon, the art dealer and collector Zoe Dusanne (1884-1972).

A new book on Dusanne written by Beth Ann Whittaker-Williams and Richelle Munkhoff, co-founders of Plain Sight Archive, is available in our gift store and website.

Dusanne's achievements are even more remarkable when viewed in the context of her time. As a Black woman in the 1950s, she became an influential voice in Seattle's largely white art world, helping shape what audiences saw, what collectors acquired, and which artists gained recognition. Her success in overcoming the racial and social barriers of the era is an important part of her legacy.

As a descendent of enslaved family members, she was born Zola Maie Graves in Kansas in 1884. She attended both Oberlin College and the University of Illinois before arriving in Seattle in 1912 to assist with her parent's hair salon business. One year later, Zoe's mother Letitia Ann Dennie Graves became the first president of the Seattle Chapter of the NAACP, with Zoe serving as Recording Secretary.

In 1928, she moved to New York and became a fixture within the city's art circles, making connections that would later be critical in her future professional art dealing career. During this time, she worked in both costume, stage sets and jewelry design. She also created puppets for the Federal Theatre W.P.A., Marionette Theatre Workshop under the direction of Remo Bufano. New York's museum's provided her the exposure to the best modern art in the world.

In 1942 she returned to Seattle and started a successful electrolysis business in downtown Seattle. During the next eleven years, she continued to collect art until opening a gallery in her home in 1950. Showing modern artists through her contacts in New York and Europe, she also promoted Northwest painters, especially Japanese Americans such as George Tsutakawa, Paul Horiuchi, John Matsudaira. In 1957, Dusanne gave Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama (b. 1929) her first American exhibition.

When her home gallery was demolished to make room for the construction of the I-5 Freeway.

She moved to 532 Broadway East in 1959 and retired five years later in 1964.

Zoe Dusanne died in Seattle in 1972 leaving a legacy that continues to have a lasting influence on the region's culture.

Zoe Dusanne in her home gallery, Sam Francis exhibition on view
1959

Gift of the Estate of Samuel L. Francis. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Sam Francis Papers, 2004.M.8, Box 249. Artwork © Sam Francis Foundation, California/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

Zola M. Graves (Zoe Dussane)
circa 1900

University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, Theodosia Young photograph collection. PH Coll 1162.76 (SOC9552/UW41595).

Portrait of Zoe Dusanne, 1947

Nelly van Doesburg Archive and Collection (0574)

John Matsudaira, Zoe Dusanne and Paul Horiuchi at Zoe Dusanne Gallery, 1961

Courtesy of the Matsudaira Family

Zoe Dusanne Residence and Private Gallery, 1303 Lakeview Place, Capitol Hill, 1949

MOHAI (SHS4247), Museum of History & Industry, Seattle.

John Franklin Koenig and Zoe Dusanne, 1958

Image courtesy of the Estate of John-Franklin Koenig. Housed at University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, John-Franklin Koenig papers (2734)