

# ARTISTS' LEGACY FOUNDATION

## Viola Frey's work is now co-represented by *The Pit* in Los Angeles



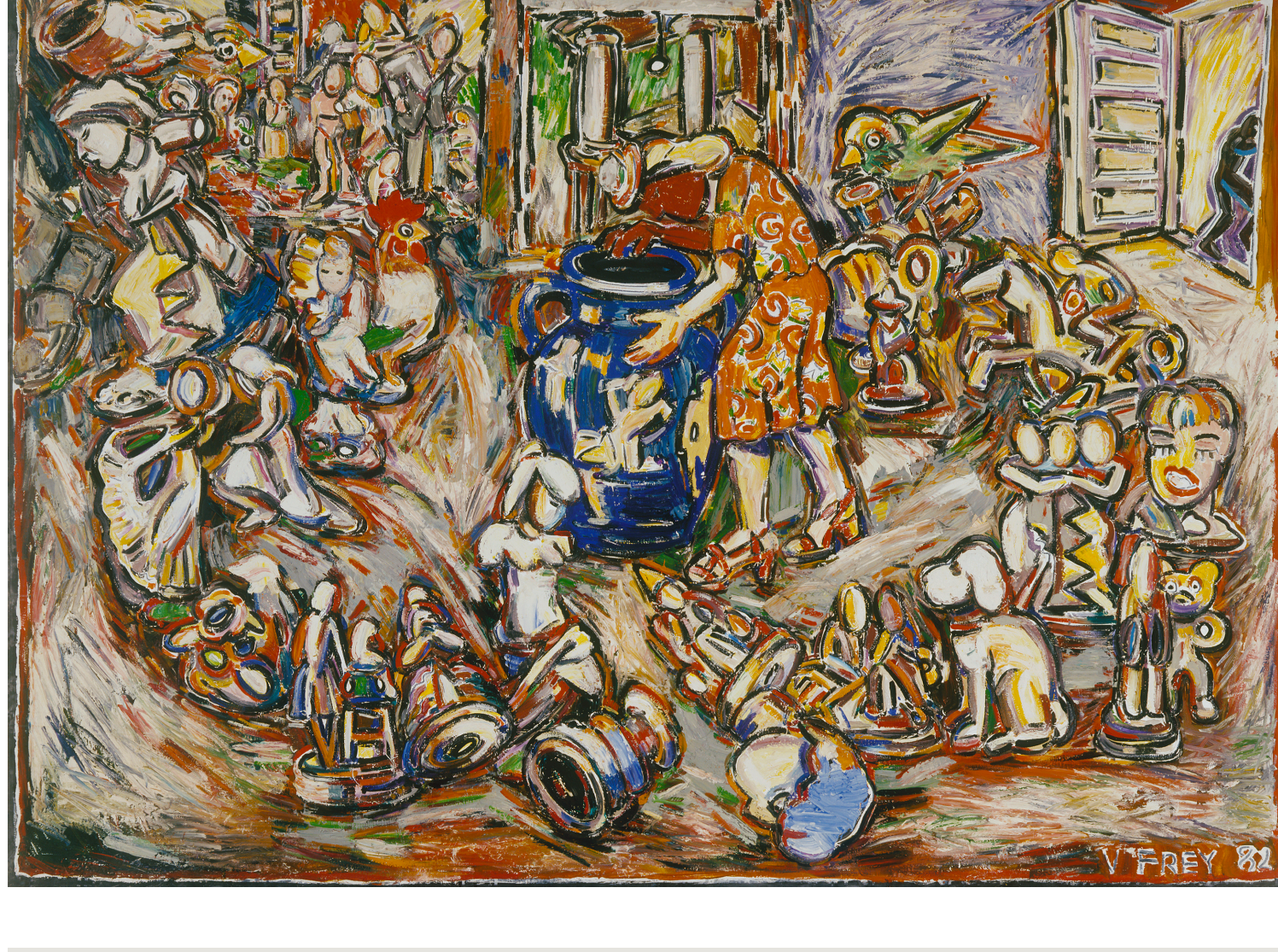
The Artists' Legacy Foundation is pleased to announce the co-representation of legendary California artist Viola Frey (1933-2004) alongside contemporary gallery *The Pit* in Los Angeles. *The Pit* displayed Frey's first solo exhibition with the gallery in Palm Springs in 2023. Viola Frey's work and legacy will thrive in *The Pit*'s vibrant community, brilliant group of artists, and thoughtful installations that cross media and generations.

"*The Pit* is absolutely thrilled to welcome the groundbreaking and legendary Viola Frey into our program. Her monumental ceramic figures and vibrant paintings and drawings, with their fearless exploration of scale and the human condition, resonate deeply with our program and our commitment to creating inter-generational dialogues. Frey's unique approach to form and narrative has left an indelible mark on contemporary art, and we are honored to share her visionary practice with our community."

-Adam Miller and Devon Oder, *The Pit*

The *Pit*'s upcoming exhibition, *Viola Frey: Observed and Gathered*, will be Frey's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles in over three decades. The exhibition follows the release of the first comprehensive monograph dedicated to the artist's work. *Viola Frey: Artist's Mind/Studio/World*, which provides essential scholarly context with key texts written by Cynthia de Bos, Nancy Lim, Jenelle Porter and Jodi Throckmorton. *Viola Frey: Observed & Gathered* opens on May 3, 2025 and closes June 7.

In October 2025, *The Pit* will present Frey's work at Frieze London as part of a group presentation.



A prolific creator and interdisciplinary artist, Viola Frey produced thousands of artworks during her lifetime. Most well known for her larger-than-life ceramic figures, Frey also worked in clay on a smaller scale, in addition to drawings, paintings, and uniquely painted bronze sculptures. Her work in clay was ahead of its time, bridging the gap between craft and fine art, while pushing the boundaries of ceramic sculpture.

Viola Frey received her BFA and honorary doctorate from California College of the Arts and Crafts and attended graduate school at Tulane University. She was awarded two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, the Award of Honor in Sculpture from the San Francisco Arts Commission, and many other grants and awards.



Frey's work is in numerous public and private collections, including the Paris Museum of Modern Art, Paris, France; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA. In 2000, Viola Frey co-founded the Artists' Legacy Foundation with Squeak Carnwath and Gary Knecht. Upon her death in 2004, she entrusted the Foundation to steward her legacy.

For more information about Viola Frey or for inquiries for her work, please email us at [info@theartistslegacyfoundation.org](mailto:info@theartistslegacyfoundation.org) or [info@the-pit.la](mailto:info@the-pit.la)



Image Credits:

Viola Frey in her Oakland studio, 1987. Photograph by M. Lee

Viola Frey, *Seated White Majestic Woman*, 2004, ceramic and glazes, 75 x 75 x 69 in. ©2025 Artists' Legacy Foundation, Oakland / ARS, New York. Photograph by M. Lee Fatherree.

Viola Frey, *Oakland / ARS, New York*. Photograph by M. Lee Fatherree.

Viola Frey, *Studio View: Woman and Vase*, 1982, alkyl oil on canvas, 55 x 76 in. ©2025 Artists' Legacy Foundation, Oakland / ARS, New York. Photograph by M. Lee Fatherree.

Viola Frey, *Untitled (Blue Hands and White Fan)*, 1997, ceramic, glazes, and Egyptian paste, 26 x 26 x 4 1/2 in. ©2025 Artists' Legacy Foundation, Oakland / ARS, New York. Photograph by M. Lee Fatherree.



**Discover the Works of Viola Frey**



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