# Len Lye

Born in Christchurch New Zealand, 1901.

Died 1980 in New York, United States of America.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2020

Selected Solo Exhibitions

Len Lye: The Absolute Truth of the Happiness Acid, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2023-24 2019

Kineticism: Len Lye and the Howard Wise Gallery, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ Len Lye: Motion Composer, Museum Tinguely, Basel, CH

Len Lye: Storm,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: No Trouble,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Shelling Out: Len Lye's Experiments in Animations, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2018-19

2023

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: The Edge Of The Sea,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Wand Dance

Len Lye: Heaven and Earth

Len Lye: Group Therapy,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Charting the zig-zags,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2018

Len Lye: Wand Dance,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2022-23

Len Lye: Pretty Good for the 21st Century Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Atomic Power,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Antipodean emanations: cameraless photographs from Australia and New Zealand,

Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, AU

2022

Len Lye: Sky Snakes

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Blade

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2021-22

Len Lye: Love Springs Eternal, STARKWHITE, Auckland, NZ

Len Lye: Convolutions,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2017-18

Len Lye: Rainbow Dance,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Convolutions,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2021

Len Lye's Jazz: Projection Series 9,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Wand Dance

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2017

Len Lye Tangibles: 1963 - 1969,

Len Lye: Stopped Short by Wonder,

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, NZ 2010-11

Len Lye's kinetic sculpture Roundhead,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: The Body Electric

Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK

Len Lye: Fountain III,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Trilogy

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye's kinetic sculpture Grass,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2009-10

2010

2016-17

Len Lye: Flip and Two Twisters (Trilogy),

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: The Cosmic Archive

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye: Experimental Moves,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2008-09

Len Lye: Chronosome Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2015-16

Portraits of the Artists,

Fauna, Te Manawa Manawatu Art Gallery, Palmerston

North, NZ

Len Lye: Flora and Fauna,

-en Lye. i iora anu i auna,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2015

2015

Len Lye's Jam Session,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2023

Len Lye: Four Fountains

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

On Point,

Herzliya Museum Of Contemporary Art, Herzliya,

IL

Trilogy (A Flip and Two Twisters)

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Len Lye, Gordon Walters, 1301SW, Melbourne, AU

**Selected Group Exhibitions** 

2014 2022

Len Lye: Motion Sketch

The Drawing Centre, New York, US

Le 3 Ecologie,

Macte, Museo Di Arte Contemporanea Di Termoli,

Termoli, IT

2011-12

Artists Reading Len Lye: Old Genes

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2021

**Movement making Movement** 

National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, SK

2011 Queenstown Pop Up,

STARKWHITE, Queenstown, NZ

Len Lye: All Souls Carnival

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2020-21

Antibodies, Palais De Tokyo, Paris, France

2019-20

Ruth Buchanan: The Scene In Which I Find Myself. Or, Where Does My Body Belong,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymouth, NZ

2019

Elizabeth Thomson & Len Lye: Waking Up Slowly, Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2018-19

Oskar Fischinger and Len Lye: Projection Series #12.

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2018

Tūrangawaewae: Art and New Zealand, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, NZ

Sensory Agents,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Free Radicals: Cinema on the Wrong Side of the

2018

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2017

Show Me the Money!, Museet For Samtidskunst, Roskilde, DK

On an Island,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2016-17

The Shadow of Colour

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, IL

2016

Set in Motion,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

**Emanations: The Art of the Cameraless** 

Photograph,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

Projection Series #3: Syncopated Cinema,

Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ

2015

America Is Hard To See,

Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, US

In Motion,

STARKWHITE, Auckland, NZ

Imaginary Audience Scale,

Artspace Aotearoa, Auckland, NZ

A Journal of the Plague Year, Kadist, San Francisco, US

2013-14

Typemotion - Type as Image in Movement ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe,

DE

2012

Animism,

Haus Der Kulturen Der Welt, Berlin, DE

Printin'

Museum of Modern Art, New York, US

2011-12

Animism - Modernity Through the Looking Glass,

Generali Foundation, Vienna, AT

2011

Ozlem Altin, Ruth Laskey & Len Lye: Figures in

Space,

Galerie Ute Parduhn, Düsseldorf, DE

Car Fetich. I drive, therefore I am, Museum Tinguely, Basel, CH

Watch Me Move: The Animation Show Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK

**Filmography** 2010-11 Points of Contact: Jim Allen, Len Lye and Helio Tal Farlow, 1min 30sec (completed posthumously, 1980) Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, New Plymounth, NZ Particles in Space, Abstract Expressionist New York, 4 min (1966) Museum of Modern Art, New York, US Fountain of Hope, 2010 1 min (1959) Celluloid: Cameraless Film, Free Radicals, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt, DE 5 min (1958, revised 1979) Animism, Prime Time, Kunsthalle Bern, Bern, CH 1 min (1958) Le Mouvement: From Cinema to Kinetics, All Soul's Carnival, Museum Tinguely, Basel, CH 16 min (1957) Animism, Rhythm, Kunsthal Extra City, Antwerp, BE 1 min (1957) 2009 Life's Musical Minute, 1 min (1953) Cause & Effect, LM Projects, Los Angeles, US Full Fathom Five, 1 min (1953) **Art in Motion** Hive Gallery, Barnsley, UK Colour Cry, 3 min (1952) 2008-09 Cameramen at War, Invisible Rays: The Surrealism Lagacy, 17 min (1943) The Rose Art Museum, Waltham, Massachusetts, US Planned Crops, 90 sec (1942) 2001-02 Collapsible Metal Tubes, **Animations** 90 sec (1942) Museum of Modern Art, New York, US Kill or Be Killed, 1984 18 min (1942) Film (Fall 1984), Work Party, Museum of Modern Art, New York, US 7 min (1942)

Newspaper Train, 5 min (1942)

8 min (1941)

When the Pie Was Opened,

1961

Tangible Motion: Sculpture by Len Lye,

Museum of Modern Art, New York, US

Musical Poster #1, 3 min (1940) in Technicolor

Swinging the Lambeth Walk, 4 min (1939) in Dufaycolor

Colour Flight,

4 min (1937) in Gasparcolor

N or NW, 7 min (1938)

Trade Tattoo (1937), 5 min in Technicolor

Rainbow Dance, 5 min (1936) in Gasparcolor

The Birth of The Robot, 7 min (1936) in Gasparcolor

Kaleidoscope, 4 min (1935) in Dufaycolor

A Colour Box, 4 min (1935) in Dufaycolor

The Peanut Vendor, 2 min (1933)

Tusalava, 10 min (1929)

**Public Sculptures** 

2017

Wind Wand, Coastal Walkway, New Plymouth, NZ

2006

Water Whirler, Pier off Frank Kitts Park, Wellington Waterfront, NZ

**Collections** 

Len Lye Centre, New Plymouth, NZ

Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision, Wellington, NZ

The Museum of Modern Art

BFI National Archive, Berkhamsted, UK

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Auckland, NZ

Art Institute of Chicago, Illinois, Chicago, US

The Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, New York, US

The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, US

Alan Gibbs Farm Sculpture Park, Kaipara Harbour, NZ

Berkeley Art Museum, California, US

Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel

Light Cone (film distributor), Paris, FR

LUX (film distributor), London, UK

Canyon Cinema (film distributor), San Francisco, California, US