

The Paul Ré Collection and Archives

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Résumé of Paul Ré

Biography

Paul Ré is best known for his books, *Art, Peace, and Transcendence: Réograms That Elevate and Unite* and *The Dance of the Pencil: Serene Art by Paul Ré*; his widely shown traveling exhibit *Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted*; and for the [Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize](#) which is administered by the University of New Mexico Foundation. The Ré Peace Prize has been endowed to function in perpetuity, and it extends Paul's half-century of work promoting harmony in the world through art and other peace-furthering endeavors. It encourages persons in all disciplines in the advancement of both *internal and external peace*. As of 2020, thirty-two individuals and organizations have been honored. Beyond the joy of creating works of art, Paul's greatest reward is when people are moved by his work toward achieving peace and fulfillment.

Paul Ré was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he still resides. He earned a bachelor's degree in physics, with honors, from the California Institute of Technology in 1972; this has served him well as an artist expressing the beauty of science. Paul has been acclaimed by art critics as "a virtuoso of the pencil" (Alfred Frankenstein, *San Francisco Chronicle*) for his art of "quiet greatness and noble simplicity" (Allan Pearson, *Albuquerque Journal*). In thirteen states, he has had twenty-two solo exhibits, including exhibits at the UNM Jonson Gallery, Albuquerque Museum, Triangle Gallery, Wichita Museum, Sumter Gallery, J. B. Speed Museum, Colorado Springs Museum, and Karpeles Museum. His traveling exhibition of *Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted* has been shown eighteen times in North America. A documentary film on his *Touchable Art* was produced by SCETV in 1990, and a companion book was created. Paul is now making a second tactile exhibit, *Inspired by Nature*, which is dedicated to environmental conservation.

Ré's volume, *Art, Peace, and Transcendence: Réograms That Elevate and Unite*

was published in 2015 by UNM Press. It received the 2016 New Mexico – Arizona Book Award for Philosophy and the 2019 Independent Press Award for Distinguished Favorite in Fine Arts. His monograph, *The Dance of the Pencil: Serene Art by Paul Ré*, was published in 1993; the *Journal of the Print World* reviewed it as “one of the outstanding art books of the year.” His writing has appeared in *Leonardo* XIII–2, XIV–2, and XV–2; the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*; *New America*; *Spirit* (seven covers and poems); *La Mamelle*; and *Design Journal*. Significant articles about his work have been featured in *Contemporary Graphic Artists III*, *Spirit of Enterprise: The 1990 Rolex Awards*, and other reference volumes.

Paul’s art has been highly regarded by artists Georgia O’Keeffe, Raymond Jonson, and Ed Garman; Nobel laureates Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, Richard Feynman, Kip Thorne, and Roger Sperry; and many other individuals. Also an accomplished guitarist, poet, and humorist, he is editing his collected poems, *The Iris Ballet*, and has compiled his fifty-four volumes of aphorisms and micro-essays into the upcoming volume *The Récycled Dictionary*. He greatly enjoys walking and meditating in nature. More insights can be found at www.paulre.org.

Chronology

Paul Bartlett Ré (pronounced *Ray*)

- 1950 Born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, son of Ernest Ré, an Italian American woodworker, and Helen Bartlett Ré, an English American homemaker
- 1967 Receives award for first place in physics at the International Science Fair in San Francisco, California, for “Coanda Effect Propulsion” (involving vortex formation, surface adhesion, and the entrainment of surrounding gas); NASA Award alternate
- 1968 Receives award for first place in physics and the NASA Award at the International Science Fair in Detroit, Michigan, for “High Speed Interacting Jets” (jets as in supersonic streams of air); also receives awards from IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), WESCON-FES (Western Electronics Show and Convention Future Engineers Show), and other institutions; graduates as valedictorian of Sandia High School in Albuquerque

- 1972 Receives BSc in physics (with honors; fifth in class) from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California; begins working full-time as an artist expressing the beauty of physics in art
- 1979 Begins translating his drawings and paintings into tactual works for the blind and sighted
- 1981 First traveling exhibit, *Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted*, begins circulating
- 1981–1985 Develops and teaches a course in laboratory physics for nonscience majors at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque
- 1982 and 1984 Receives residency grants from the Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico
- 1983 Completes handmade edition of *Touchable Art: A Book for the Blind and Sighted*
- 1987–1994 Serves on the artist advisory board of the Access to Art program at the American Folk Art Museum in New York, New York
- 1990 Becomes a life member of the Nature Conservancy through fifteen years of bicycling for conservation
- 1992 *The Dance of the Pencil: Serene Art by Paul Ré* is published
- 1994 Begins developing second traveling exhibit, *Inspired by Nature: Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted*
- 1994–present Serves as director of the Paul Ré Collection and Archives
- 2000 Begins creating hybrid hand-digital artworks, or Réograms
- 2002 Becomes member of the Torch Bearers of Caltech
- 2007 The Paul Bartlett Ré Peace Prize established at the University of New Mexico
- 2009 Becomes member of the Tom L. Popejoy Society of the University of New Mexico
- 2012 Becomes member of the New Horizons Society of the University of New Mexico
- 2015 *Art, Peace, and Transcendence* is published by UNM Press
- 2016 *Art, Peace, and Transcendence* receives the New Mexico – Arizona Book Award for Philosophy; was also a finalist in Fine Arts, Science, and Large Format Cover Design
- 2019 *Art, Peace, and Transcendence* receives the Independent Press Award for Distinguished Favorite in Fine Arts

Solo Exhibitions of Visual Works

- 1974 *The Animal Series*, Triangle Gallery, San Francisco, California (pencil drawings)
- 1975 *Abstract Series I*, Triangle Gallery (pencil drawings)
- 1978 *Paul Ré*, Jonson Gallery, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico (pencil drawings and acrylic paintings; a catalog was published, and Albuquerque's KHFM produced a fifty-minute radio program, October 25, 1978)
- 1979 *Paul Ré*, Artichoke Gallery, Albuquerque (pencil drawings and works in ink)
- 2001 *Shaping Serenity*, Jonson Gallery, University of New Mexico Art Museum
- 2002 *The Dance of the Pencil*, Karpeles Museum, Newburgh, New York
- 2005 *Paul Ré*, Jonson Gallery, University of New Mexico Art Museum (minishow celebrating bequest to the University of New Mexico)

Showings of *Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted*

There have been eighteen showings of Paul Ré's first traveling exhibition, *Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted*. The exhibit requires about one hundred feet of wall space. Over one hundred thousand blind and sighted persons have experienced it, and exhibitions have lasted from one to six months. The exhibit has received considerable newspaper, TV, and radio coverage; only a few selected examples could be noted here. Except for the double billings indicated below, all showings were solo exhibits.

- 1981 Baxter Art Gallery, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California (sixteen pencil drawings and acrylic paintings by Paul Ré also included; works by Ré coexhibited with the works of Barry Fahr and Tom Jenkins; catalog published)
- 1982 Auraria Library Gallery, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado
- 1983 Albuquerque Public Library, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 1984 Sertoma Art Center, Raleigh, North Carolina
Courage Center Gallery, Golden Valley, Minnesota
- 1985 Polk Community College Gallery, Winter Haven, Florida
J. B. Speed Museum of Art, Louisville, Kentucky
Museum of Arts and Sciences, Macon, Georgia (coexhibited with the

Smithsonian Institution's *In Touch: Printing and Writing for the Blind in the Nineteenth Century*)

- 1986 Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, Kansas
Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico (featured in two two-minute TV news segments and a four-minute radio segment on KUNM [NPR])
- 1987 Brazos Valley Art Council, College Station, Texas
- 1988 Paramount Arts Center Gallery, Ashland, Kentucky
Fine Arts Museum, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- 1989 Aitken Bicentennial Exhibition Centre (ABEC), Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada (featured in an eight-minute CBC TV segment and a two-minute CBC radio interview with the artist)
- 1990 Sumter Gallery of Art, Sumter, South Carolina (brochure and catalog published; thirty-minute TV documentary on *Touchable Art for the Blind and Sighted* produced by SCETV and WRJA; five-minute program produced by SC Educational Radio Network; front-page feature photo in *The Item*, April 19, 1990)
Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado (featured in two two-minute TV news segments)
- 1991 Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California (coexhibited with the sculptures of Michael Naranjo)
- 1992 Museum of Art and Science, Statesville, North Carolina

Selected Group Exhibits

- 1972 *Surrealism is Alive and Well in the West*, Baxter Art Gallery, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California (catalog published)
- 1975 *New Mexico Biennial*, Fine Arts Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico (circulated within New Mexico; catalog published)
- 1973, 1974, and 1975 Triangle Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 1977 and 1978 Gump's Art Gallery, San Francisco
- 1978 White Oak Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Southwest Biennial, Fine Arts Museum of New Mexico (catalog published)
- 1983 Performance Gallery, Albuquerque, New Mexico

- 1988 *XIII Biennale of Graphic Design*, Brno, Czechoslovakia (catalog published)
- 1989 Symmetry Congress and Exhibition of the International Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Symmetry, Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest, Hungary
- 1994–present *The Peace Autograph*, International Museum of Peace, Samarkand, Uzbekistan (eight items in permanent exhibit)
- 1995 Symmetry Congress and Exhibition of the International Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Symmetry, Alexandria, Virginia
- 2007 *Private Reserves: Art of the Imagination*, University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque (*Ibis* drawing by Paul Ré used as cover of announcement)

Selected Public Institutions with Works by Paul Ré

Albuquerque Museum, Albuquerque, New Mexico; California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California; Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Deutsche Blindenstudienanstalt, Marburg, Germany; Fine Arts Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico; Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, Taos, NM; J. B. Speed Museum of Art, Louisville, Kentucky; Jonson Gallery, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Museum of Arts and Sciences, Macon, Georgia; New Mexico School for the Blind, Alamogordo, New Mexico; New York Public Library, Print Collection, New York, New York; Oakland Museum, Oakland, California; Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts; Sumter Gallery of Art, Sumter, South Carolina; University Art Museum, University of California, Berkeley, California; University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; and Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS.

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Bill Richardson, Governor, New Mexico, November 7, 2005.

Jean-Lou Chameau, President, Caltech, October 17, 2006, and August 24, 2011.

Leslie Donovan, Professor and Chair of Honors College, University of New Mexico, December 15, 2015, December 21, 2015, and November 20, 2016.

V. B. Price, Poet and Journalist, June 19, 2016.

Nic Knight, Executive Director, Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, May 15, 2017 and January 2, 2018.

Amy Wohlert, Chief of Staff, President Abdallah, University of New Mexico, July 27, 2017.

Alyn Ware, Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, August 15, 2017.

Thomas Rosenbaum, President, Caltech, October 12, 2017.

Katherine Josten, Founder/Director, Global Art Project for Peace, December 7, 2018.

William M. Brown, Mentor, The Climate Reality Project, May 14, 2019.