

## Artist Resources – Sir Frank Bowling (British, b. 1934)



Bowling, 2019  
Photograph: Mathilde Agius

[Bowling at the Tate](#)

[Bowling at Alexander Gray](#)

[Bowling at Hauser & Wirth](#)

Listen to the British Library’s [“Voices of Art”](#) series on Frank Bowling, which includes recorded interviews of the artist discussing his first trip to London, applying to the Royal College of Art, writing for Arts Magazine, and his process of making.

[Frank Bowling: Map Paintings](#) was on display at the Dallas Museum of Art in 2015. The exhibition celebrated the DMA’s acquisition of its first “map painting” by the artist.

Read a [“Where I Work”](#) interview with Bowling about his studio space in The Guardian.

The 2019 solo exhibition [Frank Bowling](#) was on display at Tate Britain, the first major exhibition of Bowling’s’ work that catapulted his career in the mainstream art world. Read an article in [The Guardian](#) in anticipation of the exhibition’s opening and watch a [Tate video](#) “How to Paint Like Bowling.”

Read the [Artnet article](#), “After Decades of ‘Appalling’ Institutional Neglect, Museums Are Now Clamoring for Frank Bowling’s Work,” published in the wake of his monumental Tate Britain exhibition.

Take a virtual tour of [Frank Bowling: London/New York](#), which was on view at Hauser & Wirth in 2021 and spanned 50 years of Bowling’s career.

Read an interview in [The Art Newspaper](#): “My art isn’t about politics, it’s about paint,” another in [Art UK](#) with Melissa Chemam, and a third in [Artforum](#) on the artist’s use of color, the sublime, and painting paradox.

[Frank Bowling: Penumbral Light](#) was on display at Hauser & Wirth Zurich in 2022 showing recent paintings produced by the artist during 2020 lockdowns in London.

The University of Greenwich Galleries installed [Frank Bowling and Sculpture](#) in 2022, the first exhibition to explore Bowling’s work in sculpture and engagement with sculptors.

In 2022, Bowling was [awarded the Wolfgang Hahn Prize](#). The accompanying [exhibition](#) at the Museum Ludwig in Cologne marked the first acquisition of Bowling’s work in Germany.

[Frank Bowling’s Americas: New York 1966-75](#) originated at the [Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#) in 2022 and travels to [SFMOMA](#) in 2023. Read reviews of the exhibition in [WBUR](#), the [Bay State Banner](#), and the [Boston Globe](#).



Bowling in his South London studio, 2015  
Photograph: David Levene



Frank Bowling (British, b. 1934)

**Penumbra Lite**, 2020

Acrylic and acrylic gel on canvas with marouflage

Private Collection; L2022:72.1

Frank Bowling was born and raised in colonial British Guyana before relocating to England in 1950. In the 1960s, Bowling moved to New York and found affinity with the American Abstract Expressionist and Color Field artists exploring the formal limits of painting.

**Penumbra Lite** returns to the themes of memory, water, and shorelines that were common in Bowling's "map paintings" of the 1960s. Although the work reads as abstract, the thin blue line stretching across the canvas evokes the ocean landscape of Guyana. Indeed, Bowling's Afro-Caribbean, post-colonial roots continue to influence his approach to abstract painting. With a base of red, yellow, and green paint – the colors of the Guyanese flag – the artist echoes the lingering impact of British colonialism today. Yet as he once said: "I still insist that I'm not a Black artist, I'm an artist. The tradition I imbibe and the cultural ramifications are British."

*On view January 18 – April 23, 2023*