**Artists Working Now: David Hockney**

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Lecture for Art Seminar by Paula Burleigh

David Hockney (b. 1937, Bradford, UK) is one of the most celebrated painters working today. And yet his work beyond the 1960s has, to some degree, eluded serious critical commentary, although a recent retrospective co–organized by the Tate Britain and the Metropolitan Museum of Art suggests this is changing. This talk surveys both the trajectory and reception of Hockey’s work over the span of his 60–year career, including his early years depicting swimming pools in Los Angeles, the Polaroid photo–collages of the 1980s, and the exuberant landscapes he continues to make today. Finally, we will discuss Hockney’s embrace of technology in his recent work with fax machines, video, and the iPad, experiments that demonstrate an uncommon willingness to continually challenge the parameters of his practice.

**Key Themes**

**Early Work:**

* Queer content
* Appropriation
* Abstraction meets figuration

**Later Work:**

* Medium and technique–based experimentation
* The return of earnest painting

**Further Reading**

*David Hockney.* Chris Stephens and Andrew Wilson, Eds. London: Tate

Publishing, 2017.

Lawrence Weschler, *True to Life: Twenty-Five Years of Conversations with David*

*Hockney*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008.

David Hockney, *Secret Knowledge: Rediscovering the Lost Technique of the Old Masters.*

London: Avery Publishing, Expanded Edition 2006.