

# PRESS RELEASE

For additional press information  
please contact Annie Longley  
([alongley@paam.org](mailto:alongley@paam.org))



## LEO MANSO: COLLAGES AND OTHER WORKS

**Provincetown, MA:** Provincetown Art Association and Museum (PAAM) is thrilled to present an exhibition of works by Leo Manso. Curated by Eugene Fedorko, this exhibition is on view from July 2 - October 17, 2021. PAAM is open to the public Wednesday-Monday, 11AM-5PM, with six, hour-long time slots: 11AM (mask required), 12PM, 1PM, 2PM, 3PM, and 4PM. Reservations are strongly encouraged, and can be made online ([www.paam.org/tickets](http://www.paam.org/tickets)) or by phone (508-487-1750). Visitors are encouraged to visit the PAAM website in advance to confirm hours.

### ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

This exhibition features approximately 30 works from PAAM's permanent collection and a private collection. Many of the featured works are collage and speak to Manso's reputation as a leading figure in the medium. Though he began his career as a social realist, Manso was drawn to transcendental art inspired by nature and included immersion in different landscapes as part of his artistic process. Because of the influence of light and atmosphere, Manso referred to his early landscape work as "Abstract Impressionism." Coupled with travels to Mexico, Italy, India, and a host of Africa countries, Manso read extensively in Buddhist, Hindu, and Tantric philosophies. These experiences became the cornerstone of his artistic practice. By making collages and other works, Manso achieved a sense of simultaneity and dynamism while manipulating color and form to put his viewer in a meditative state.



**PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM**  
460 COMMERCIAL STREET | PROVINCETOWN MA | 02657  
[WWW.PAAM.ORG](http://WWW.PAAM.ORG) | 508-487-1750 | @PAAM1914

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

"Leo Manso (1914-1993) was a significant artist and educator in both New York and Provincetown art circles and helped to foster Provincetown's reputation as a major art colony. He was the primary force in organizing two important cooperative galleries in Provincetown: the 256 Gallery (1951-1957) and Long Point Gallery (1976-1998), the longest-lived and most influential artist-run gallery in Provincetown's rich history. Manso and the painter Victor Candell established the Provincetown Workshop (1958-1976), which became what the artist historian Dorothy Gees Seckler described in a 1965 interview for the Archives of American Art as 'easily recognized as the most important school at this time' in Provincetown." - Mary Ellen Abell in her essay "Leo Manso"

## CURATOR'S STATEMENT

"I grew up in a small-town, an ethnic enclave in Western Pennsylvania. My immigrant family worked in the steel mills, exchanging serfdom under the Hapsburg Dynasty in Eastern Europe for the serfdom of capitalism- my grandfather would always chuckle with irony. A friend and I played hooky from school one day, and drove down near the West Virginia border looking for white-water rapids, suitable for rafting. We got lost and came across the Fallingwater Estate by Frank Lloyd Wright. The waterfall was roaring. The cantilevers, the proportions were nothing like I had ever seen before in my working-class upbringing. I went into a trance, literally, non-verbal and kind of rapturous, at the site of this architectural wonder..."

That meditative trance-like state of mind, that lets nothing else in, not even the tiniest distraction, overtook me when I had all of Leo Manso's work, face-up for selection to this exhibition in a storage room on Cape Cod, and I went into a poetic spin at the sight of it all. My mind was reeling, non-verbal and profoundly in awe, of the beauty of it all. Later, I tried to imagine the rapture Leo must have felt while working on some of these pieces, and even when not working on these pieces. Leo started schools, galleries, collectives with other artists; his life was all about art. He would go to Italy or India and pull out of the ether the essence of their atmosphere, their vibe, their visuals, and their art.

I want to welcome you, the audience, to this show, and sincerely hope that some or all of the rapture is transferred to you as you view the work of the genius of Leo Manso." - Gene Fedorko, Curator

## PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM

Provincetown Art Association and Museum was established in 1914 by a group of artists and townspeople to build a permanent collection of works by artists of outer Cape Cod, and to exhibit art that would allow for unification within the community. Through a comprehensive schedule of exhibitions of local and national significance and educational outreach, PAAM provides the public access to art, artists, and the creative process. The PAAM Membership is a vibrant community of over 1,800 individuals. Whether you're an artist or you simply love the arts, a PAAM Membership opens the door to programs and events that enrich and inspire.

Located at 460 Commercial Street, PAAM is open by reservation Wednesday-Monday, 11AM-5PM, with six, hour-long time slots: 11AM (mask required), 12PM, 1PM, 2PM, 3PM, and 4PM. Due to updated regulations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and as of June 1, we require unvaccinated people to wear face coverings and encourage it for all our visitors.

Reservations are highly recommended. Please reserve tickets online (visit [www.paam.org/tickets](http://www.paam.org/tickets)) or by calling 508-487-1750. Visitors without reservations are accommodated when possible.

*Image: Leo Manso, Mostly Red, n.d., collage, 7" x 10.5" Provincetown Art Association and Museum Permanent Collection.*



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