

SPENCER LEWIS

Spencer Lewis (b. 1979 in Hartford, CT) is recognized for his works on cardboard and jute, executed in swathes of bright, saturated pigment with a charged physicality expressed in heavily worked and tactile surfaces, streaked lines, smears of paint, and rough, slashed strokes that crisscross back and forth with visceral force. Lewis builds his compositions in layers through unbridled, even violent movements, deliberately subjecting his paintings to fatigue and brute overworking in order to unleash their organic power.

While Lewis' gestural vigor echoes Abstract Expressionist action painting, the optics of his frenetic palette find resonance in Modernism. In his youth, Lewis discovered his mother's books on Hans Hofmann and Willem de Kooning, which led him to acquire his own copies so he could draw over reproductions of their work with ballpoint pen, deconstructing their lines and planes of color. Such examinations were essential to his understanding of how to shift, fold, and construct space anew in his own paintings.

The thrashing gestures in Lewis' mature abstractions have evolved from an X-shape that dominated his early *Cage* paintings executed on cardboard. Those loosely narrative works evinced the architecture of the body by employing an underlying grid over which the artist applied fields of flat color. Two cleaving lines crossed over the surface of these monumental canvases, rendering a vaguely anthropomorphic presence. An aperture was part of these works, suggesting a peering eye, while other representational fragments of the human face or body emerged and receded between thickets of knots.

Lewis lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

SPENCER LEWIS

B. 1979, HARTFORD, CT

LIVES AND WORKS IN LOS ANGELES, CA

2008 MFA UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, CA

2001 BFA RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN, PROVIDENCE, RI

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

Spencer Lewis: Put a mess, MASSIMODECARLO, Milan, Italy

2022

Spencer Lewis: Bubbles, Galerie Nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, Austria

Spencer Lewis: Jacques Lewis, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

Spencer Lewis: Sending, MASSIMODECARLO, Hong Kong

Spencer Lewis: Jacques (Pink and Purple Paintings for My Dad), Harper's Chelsea, New York, NY

Spencer Lewis: Odds & Sods, Josh Lilley, London, England

2021

Spencer Lewis: Susan Mary, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz, Switzerland

Spencer Lewis: Four New Works, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

Spencer Lewis: Six Jutes (2), Harper's Chelsea, New York, NY

Spencer Lewis: Turnip (two kinds of violence), Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, Belgium

Spencer Lewis: On Valentines, Canada, New York, NY

2020

Spencer Lewis: Six Jutes (1), Harper's Chelsea, New York, NY

Spencer Lewis: Literacy Devolves into Violence, Harper's Books, East Hampton, NY

2019

Spencer Lewis, Harper's Apartment, New York, NY

2017

Spencer Lewis: Violet Paintings for the Red and Blue Studio, Harper's Apartment, New York, NY

2016

Spencer Lewis: Evil Baby Bully Part Object Paintings, Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Spencer Lewis and Eamon Ore-Giron: Savage Curio, Et Al, San Francisco, CA

2014

Spencer Lewis: Paint Object, Edward Cella, Los Angeles, CA

2006

Spencer Lewis: Powerful Emptiness, Hayworth Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

The Descendants, K11 Musea, Presented by WAOW Gallery, Hong Kong

2023

Closeness: Spencer Lewis & Caitlin Lonigan, curated by Michael Ned Holte, Micki Meng Gallery, New York, NY

DRUNK VS. STONED 3, The Ranch at The Dock, Montauk, NY

These Days, Vito Schnabel Gallery, New York, NY

2022

Reflections: Partly Fiction, Woaw Gallery, Hong Kong

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2021

Fabrics, Goodwill SoCal, Los Angeles, CA

I Care Because You Do, The Mass, Curated by Matt Black, Tokyo, Japan

2020

Isolation is the Mother of Invention Part I, Kathryn Brennan Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

A Doctor, a Painter, and an Alchemist Walk into a Bar: Alchemist, DRx Romanelli, Spencer Lewis (album collaboration and installation), Over the Influence, Los Angeles, CA

2019

Ecdysis II, Ltd, Los Angeles, CA

Ecdysis, MAS, Museum aan de Stroom, Antwerp, Belgium

Nine, No Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Mind, Body, Soul with Maysa Mohamedi and Samuel Jablon, Lowell Ryan Projects, Los Angeles, CA

2018

Six artists: Theresa Chromati Adam Henry Spencer Lewis Caitlin Lonegan Emily Mae Smith Tim Wilson, Harper's Books, East Hampton, NY

Vision Valley, The Pit, Glendale, CA

Carry the Bend, Brennan and Griffin, New York, NY

Indulge by John Wolf, Art Movement, Los Angeles, CA

Common Room by Even Trine, Finishing Concepts, Los Angeles, CA

Group show, Shoulder Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2015

Unbound, Edward Cella, Los Angeles, CA

2014

6018 Wilshire, Edward Cella, Los Angeles, CA

After Image, Carl Berg, Irvine Fine Arts Center, Irvine, CA

2012

Venice Beach Biennial, Monique van Genderen, Los Angeles, CA

2011

Immanent Domain Part One, Allen Tombello, West Los Angeles Community College, Los Angeles, CA

Immanent Domain Part Two, Allen Tombello, Arena1 Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2010

Larval Stages, Nathan Danolovich, Latned Astar, Los Angeles, CA

2009

Lovable Like Orphan Kitties and Bastard Children, Josh Aster Kristen Calabrese, The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI

Boofthle Booth - Booth: Deux / The Hollywood Biennale, Mateo Tannat, Pauline, Los Angeles, CA

Feelings and Power, Rowan Wood, Five Thirty Three Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2008

Black Dragon Society Group Show, Black Dragon Society, Los Angeles, CA

Boofthle (Booth - Booth), Mateo Tannatt, Pauline, Los Angeles, CA

Some Paintings- LA Weekly Biennial Doug Harvey, Track 16, Los Angeles, CA



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2007

The Ones Who Stayed Longer, Inmo Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2006

Landslide - Young Los Angeles Artists, Addison Ripley, Washington D.C.

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS

National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.