

Jason Shawn Alexander

(American, b. 1975, lives in Los Angeles, California)

In depicting the human figure, Jason Shawn Alexander often employs thickly-painted passages and freely-rendered lines. Other abstract elements emerge in the figures' exaggerated gestures and elongated limbs, the doubling or tripling of images, or the intrusion of foreign materials and text onto the canvas. Alexander uses paint to express dense psychological narratives.

Traditionally, Jason Shawn Alexander's work prompts the human connection. Writers, critics, and casual observers have brought up the "emotive" qualities of his figures on numerous occasions. This is agreeable to the extent that a certain brand of emotion is present. Psychoanalytically, Alexander's content causes one to think of Jacques Lacan and the manner in which the philosopher beautifully distinguished desire from need and demand. What is left after the requisite demand for needs is satisfied? Simply put, unsatisfied desire and hence the yearning, writhing, and counter-posed nature of the figures in his paintings.

Alexander pulls from his rural upbringing, looking to the South's complex history of violence, strength, tenderness, and tenacity. Encouraged by his factory-employed father to pursue an artistic career, Alexander's earliest and enduring inspirations came from his father's art books on Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Goya, and Degas. He counts himself as an expressionist, and cites Francis Bacon, Anselm Kiefer, Käthe Kollwitz, Cy Twombly, and Patrick Graham as important influences. Alexander's work is collected both in the US and abroad.

101 / EXHIBIT

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Glorious Poison*, 101/EXHIBIT, Los Angeles, CA
2014 *No Good at Exits*, 101/EXHIBIT, Los Angeles, CA
2012 *{SIC}*, 101/EXHIBIT, Los Angeles, CA
2012-11 *Undertow*, 101/EXHIBIT, Miami, FL
2010 *New Work*, 101/EXHIBIT, Miami, FL
Mourners Walk Over Maple Leaves, Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City, CA
2009 *Insomniac*, 101/EXHIBIT, Miami, FL

Group Exhibitions

- 2010 *Art from the New World*, Bristol Museum, Bristol, England
2010-09 *Outwin Boochever Portrait Painting and Sculpture Exhibition*, Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC
2009 *The Human Eclectic*, Merry Karnowsky Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
A Space in all the Noise, Strychnin Gallery, Berlin, Germany
2008 *Oroborous*, Strychnin Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Four, Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City, CA
2007 *Literartisty*, Corey Helford Gallery, Culver City, CA
Figure, Mendenhall Sobieski Gallery, Pasadena, CA
Fracture, Compound Gallery, Portland, OR
Pick of the Harvest, Thinkspace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2006 Group Exhibition, Billy Shire Gallery, Culver City, CA
2005 Group Exhibition, Copro Nason Gallery, Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, CA