

Gavin W. Sewell

Bio

I make intricate, thoughtful mixed-media artworks emphasizing narrative and sensuality. Novelistic storytelling and intuitive abstract painting fuse in wall-sculptures layered with photographs, paint, and found objects applied in diverse ways. From patterns observed in a few select components at the beginning of my process, I interweave layer on layer, adding elements strategically or intuitively to reach a dynamic confrontation of intellect and mood.

While my development has been steadily nourished by great mixed-media artists of the past, including Kurt Schwitters, Robert Rauschenberg and the Kienholzes, I'm also inspired by contemporaries like Fred Tomaselli, Julian Schnabel and Aurel Schmidt. Due to a lifelong visual impairment, I have access to the Library of Congress audio collection; the books I listen to while painting also leave their trace on my work.

I see my pieces as the post-modern equivalents of religious icons, memory gardens or totem poles; objects in which a viewer's gaze finds and explores systems of interpretation and meaning in a shared situation with the artwork. My practice seizes the anonymous debris of contemporary life - advertisements, litter, media images - and appropriates them into matrices of subjective symbolism. I strive to push the narrative element as far as it can go in materiality and, beyond merely illustrating, signify stories infused with broad, universal themes and questions.

solo exhibitions / expositions solo

2014	Material Madness, Zenith Gallery, Washington, DC
2013	Thoughtful Objects, Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
2011	Phenomenology, The Durst Organization, New York, NY
2008	Recent Work, 205 Club / nAscent Art, New York, NY
2008	Gavin Sewell, Potion Art Space, New York, NY
2007	Suzanne deCarion Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA
2005	Stressless Art Space, New York, NY

group exhibitions / expositions collectives

2018	Trou de Ver, Ymuno Exhibitions, Montréal, QC
2018	Whisper, with The Painter8, ModArt Gallery, Miami, FL
2018	What's Real to You?, Zenith Gallery, DC
2018	Sliver, with The Painter8, Charles Clark Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2018	Sliver, with The Painter8, PL Labs- Theatre Conspiracy, Vancouver, BC
2017	Modern American Craft, with Zenith Gallery, Washington DC
2017	Saucy, with The Painter8, Vancouver, BC
2017	Variety is the Spice of Life, Zenith Gallery, DC
2016	Breezy, World Trade Art Gallery, New York, NY
2016	Animal Forms, World Trade Art Gallery, New York, NY
2016	Practise, Practise, Practise, School of Making Thinking, Words & []..., Montreal
2016	38th anniversary Exhibition, Zenith Gallery, Washington DC
2015	Art Basel Miami Works on Paper, Street Gallery, Miami, FL
2015	Sculpture And Object (sao) XX., Bratislava, Slovakia
2015	Zenith Salutes the Flag, Zenith Gallery, Washington, DC
2015	Star*Spangled Exhibition, C. Parker Gallery, Greenwich, CT
2015	Frontline Art Exhibit, City Bird Gallery, New York, NY

2014 Culture Cluster, Zenith Gallery, Washington, DC
 2014 The (UN)FAIR (with Szaval Godwin), New York, NY
 2014 SCOPE Art Fair, New York, NY
 2013 Greenpoint Gallery, salon show, Brooklyn, NY
 2013 SCOPE Art Fair, New York, NY
 2012 ArtBar, Brooklyn, NY
 2011 Glimpse: Enigmatic Visions, William Bennett Gallery, New York, NY
 2011 Forsythia, New York, NY
 2011 First Look Group Show, New York, NY
 2010 Astoria W&S Valentines Group Show, New York, NY
 2010 Mymoon Art Space, Brooklyn, New York, NY
 2009 Cipriani, New York, NY
 2007 Art on the Block / nAscent Art, New York, NY
 2006 Excel Gallery, New York, NY
 2003 Gallery at 49, New York, NY
 1998 Railroad Square Gallery, Waterville, ME

grants and residencies / subventions et residences

2012 Chashama Organization Studio Residency (2012-2015)
 2012 New York Foundation for the Arts ArtSpire Fiscal Sponsorship
 2012 Materials for the Arts Artist Recipient
 2012 Atlantic Philanthropies Supporting Grant riverrun-yes!
 2011 Durst Organization solo exhibition grant

lectures, interviews and books / conférences, entrevues, et livres

2017 'One of a Kind', essay, <https://issuu.com/culturecrawl/docs/ecc2017-program-web>
 2016 Signature Homes, Spring 2016
 2015 Strategy Studio 4th of July blog strategystudio.com/4thofjuly
 2015 The Hill Rag, interview
 2015 ArtFile Magazine, artist interview <http://artfilemagazine.com/Gavin-Sewell>
 2014 Conversations in American Literature, artwork on cover, <https://goo.gl/TFdjYz>
 2014 Stars and Stripes: The Flag in Contemporary American Art, by E. Ashley Rooney
 2011 BushwickBK, profile <http://bushwickbk.com/2011/06/20/old-glory-in-detail/>
 2011 ArtSeen, studio interview <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WekNMYk8auE>
 2010 NYC State of the Art Conference, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pU_Vm_6-LYo
 2009 nAscent Art Night at Cipriani, q&a with the artist

education / formations

Art Students' League of New York, New York, NY
 St. John's College, Annapolis, MD
 Maine College of Art, Portland, ME

Originally from central Maine, Gavin, his wife and son now divide their time between Brooklyn, New York and Montreal, Canada. D'origine du Maine, actuellement Gavin, sa femme et son fils partagent leur temps entre Brooklyn, New York et Montréal, Canada.



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