



Advisors + Curators + Purveyors

Jonathan Leach

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am concerned with creating a connection to abstraction and abstract painting/installation through a visual language that most of us find common. I then distort that pattern of understanding through formalist gestures, and generate a feeling of progress and exploration. The spaces and planes illustrated in my work are alive; they do not intend to rest.

My work has always taken influence from architecture and pathways that make up our urban environment. I am inspired by visual structures, systems, and signals that direct us through life. I am very interested in the abstract language that has developed out of urban planning and use that language in my paintings and sculptures. The work reflects this abstract language sometimes conveying a memory of familiar places and icons, such as parking garages, warehouses, car lots, and directional signs. These structures feel more expected in urban areas than trees, shrubs, and grass. They are the new organic, an innate aspect of our environment. The colors used in the work are bright and enticing like those used to seduce our wandering eye through public advertising and cautionary imagery. Fluctuating between harmony and dissonance, the colors also create tension and evoke vigorous exploration and movement.

Movement is a large part of my work. It is explored within the composition, indicated by directional symbols, lines of motion, and a dynamic angular understanding of the landscapes that I draw from. My multi-panel paintings and paintings on plexiglas are examples of breaking out beyond the framework of the canvas into something more sculptural, yet rooted in the language developed in my landscapes. The paintings on plexiglas cubes demand movement from the viewer as they experience the different sides of the composition blending together and changing while they circle the object. It is very important that each side of the object and each composition formed by moving around the sides of the cube animate a complex balance of form, color, line and composition. Unlike the canvas, the space created by these structures feels real, tangible and yet the two-dimensional application of paint to the surface, keeps the tension of the unreal at play and taut.

ARTIST ABRIVIATED BIOGRAPHY

Jonathan Leach is a painter/sculptor currently living and working in Houston, Texas. After receiving a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2001, Jonathan has exhibited his work nationally, exploring the language of architecture, advertising, and traffic in his abstract works. Jonathan has had solo shows at Gallery Sonja Roesch, the Galveston Arts Center and galleryHOMELAND, created public sculpture in the form of a putt putt challenge incorporated in Discovery Green's "Insperity Golf Experience" project, and will be producing a large mural for the north wall of Lawndale Art Center in March of 2015. Leach's work was featured in the 2013 Texas Biennial. His work is also in the collections of NRG Texas, Hess Co., the Bank of Montreal, Hobby Airport of Houston, and the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Jonathan is represented by Gallery Sonja Roesch in Houston, Texas, Cambia Art in Austin, Texas, and by Mirus Gallery in San Francisco, California.

Jonathan Leach Resume

EDUCATION

2000 BFA - **The Art Institute of Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Gallery Sonja Roesch, Houston, TX

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 "Time Does Not Exist Here", **Gallery Sonja Roesch**, Houston, TX
- 2011 "Trigger", **Box 13 ArtSpace**, Houston, TX
- 2010 "Someday we'll find it...", **galleryHOMELAND**, Portland, OR
"Unwrapped", **13 Celsius**, Houston, TX
- 2009 "Jonathan Leach: New Work", **Gallery Sonja Roesch**, Houston, TX
"Beauty and the Byproduct", **Galveston Art Center**, Galveston, TX
- 2006 "Jonathan C. Leach", **The Waypost Gallery**, Portland, OR
- 2004 "Aesthetic Evolution", **The Colorroom**, Lexington, KY

SELECTED GROUP AND JURIED EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 "Wall Dependent?". **O2 Gallery and Project Space at the Flatbed Building**,
Austin, TX - Curator: Camiba Art
"Draped up, Dripped out", **Oakcliff Cultural Center**, Dallas, TX
"Color Up, Color Down" an outdoor installation, **Russ Pitman Park**, Bellaire, TX
- 2013 "Houston vs. Austin", **BLUEorange Gallery**, Houston, TX
"The Trojan Box", **Art League Houston**, Houston, TX
"Texas Biennial 2013", **Blue Star Contemporary**, San Antonio, TX
"The Mighty Line", **Williams Tower Gallery**, Houston, TX
"Biennial: Origins in Geometry", **The Museum of Geometric & MADI Art**, Dallas, TX
"Grand Canyon", **Box 13 Artspace**, Houston, TX
"Off The Wall", **Mirus Gallery**, San Francisco, CA

- 2012 "Dirty Dozen", **Blue Star Contemporary**, San Antonio, TX
 "Texas Patrons of the Year 2012: Judy and Scott Nyquist Collection", **Art League Houston**, Houston, TX
 "Houston Fine Art Fair", **Gallery Sonja Roesch at Reliant Center**, Houston, TX
 "In Plain Sight", **McClain Gallery**, Houston, TX
 "Shipped: Work by Current Box 13 Artists", **4411 Montrose**, Houston, TX
 "What's in Store", **UNIT at Gallery Sonja Roesch**, Houston, TX
 "LAYOVER: Houston Airport System Portable Art Collection Preview", **Houston Arts Alliance Gallery**, Houston, TX
 "Southern/Pacific", **galleryHOMELAND**, Portland, OR
 "Accrocage, Celebrating 21 Years", **Gallery Sonja Roesch**, Houston, TX
- 2011 "Art 4 Life", **Station Museum**, Houston, TX – Juried
 "Southern/Pacific", **Lawndale Art Center**, Houston, TX
 "Insperity Golf Experience", **Discovery Green**, Houston, TX – Invitational
 "Texas Contemporary 2011", **Gallery Sonja Roesch at George R. Brown Convention Center**, Houston, TX
 "Texan-French Alliance Art Award & Auction", **Decorative Center Houston**, Houston, TX – Juried – 3rd Place Award
 "Contemporary Art Museum Houston Gala", **Contemporary Art Museum Houston**, Houston, TX
 "Lucky 13", **MKG Art Management**, Houston, TX
 "Frequency", **Kinselman Art Consulting**, Houston, TX
 "Chicago 7", **Darke Gallery**, Houston, TX
- 2010 "Abracadabra, gala auction", **Blaffer Art Museum**, Houston, TX
 "Art Chicago", **Gallery Sonja Roesch at The Merchandise Mart**, Chicago, IL
 "Tip Toe, with Ariane Roesch", **Lawndale Art Center**, Houston, TX
 "New American Paintings Exhibition", **G Gallery**, Houston, TX
 "Quantum/Dada", **Gallery Sonja Roesch & Rudolph Blume Fine Art/Artscan Gallery**, Houston, TX
 "The New Black: Contemporary Concepts in Abstract Painting", **Williams Tower Gallery**, Houston, TX
 "The Floor Show", **Skydive Art Space**, Houston, TX
- 2009 "22nd Annual Dia de los Muertos Retablo Exhibition", **Lawndale Art Center**, Houston, TX
 "Hunting Art Prize Exhibition", Houston, TX
- 2008 "21st Annual Dia de los Muertos Retablo Exhibition", **Lawndale Art Center**, Houston, TX
 "Women & their Work Annual Gala", **Women & Their Work Gallery**, Austin, TX
 "2008 Houston Area Exhibition", **Blaffer Gallery**, Houston, TX
 "Hunting Art Prize Exhibition", Houston, TX
 "Well Hung: One Night Only", **Winter Street Studios**, Houston, TX

- 2007 "Contemporary Landscapes", **Evoke Gallery**, St. Paul, MN
- 2006 "Scratching the Surface", **galleryHOMELAND**, Portland, OR
 "Saturation, Portland Modern Issue #4 Exhibition", **Disjecta Art Center**, Portland, OR
 "Freeway Hypnosis (a two-person exhibition)", **Tilt Gallery**, Portland, OR
 "Small Wonders", **Mark Wooley Gallery**, Portland, OR
- 2005 "Untitled Group Show", **Accident Gallery**, Eureka, CA
 "Lifeboat Hamptons Project", **Scope Art Fair**, Southampton, NY
- 2004 "Contact", **Intrinsic Gallery**, Lexington, KY
- 2003 "Eggsidious Project", **Kentucky Theatre Gallery**, Lexington, KY
- 2002 "If Memory Serves...", **Aylesford Gallery**, Lexington, KY

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS and GRANTS

- 2013 1st Place Award, **2013 Biennial: Origins in Geometry**, The Museum of Geometric & MADI Art, Dallas, TX – Juror: Clint Willour
- 2011 3rd Place Award, **2011 Texan-French Alliance for the Arts Award**, Texan-French Alliance for the Arts, Houston, TX

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND PRESENTATIONS

- 2013 Magazine; Andrews, Scott, "Reviews: 'Dirty Dozen' at Blue Star Contemporary Museum, 'Hieroglyphs' at Linda Pace Foundation", **Current**, January 23, 2013
- 2012 Blog; Anderson, Virginia Billeaud, "All the Crazies: Questions for Jonathan Leach", **Great God Pan is Dead**, September 5, 2012
 Web-Magazine; Luks, Joel, "Making Houston's Airports More Artful", **CultureMap**, August 18, 2012
 Web-Magazine; Rudick, Tyler, "Gallery Sonja Roesch Puts Prints Online with the Unveiling of New UNIT Shop and Exhibit", **CultureMap**, August 12, 2012
 Newspaper; Anspion, Catherine, "Art Notes", **PaperCity**, February 2012
- 2011 Magazine; Barrera, Debra, "Texas Contemporary Art Fair", **Arts + Culture Houston**, November 2011
 Newspaper; Torres, Marco, "Art on Par: Artist Designed Putt Putt Course", **Houston Press**, September 2011
 Blog; Barrera, Debra, "Jonathan", **Throw Me A Party or Throw Me Away**, September 20, 2011
 Newspaper; Anspion, Catherine, "Texan French Alliance for the Arts Biennial International Art Auction", **PaperCity**, August 2011
 Web-Magazine; Thompson, Steven, "An Artful Mini Golf Course is Headed to Discovery Green", **CultureMap**, August 11, 2011

- Newspaper; Deliso, Meredith, "Art Fit for a Museum, Or An Airport Terminal", **Houston Press**, August 8, 2011
- Newspaper; Anspson, Catherine, "Art 4 Life", **PaperCity**, May 2011
- Web-Magazine; Thompson, Steven, "Vive L'Art!", **CultureMap**, April 3, 2011
- Web-Magazine; Dumas, Brittini, "TFAA Second Art Award and Auction", **Examiner.com**, April 1, 2011
- Blog; Boyd, Robert, "Where Texas and France Collide", **The Great God Pan is Dead**, March 31, 2011
- Blog; Plunkett, Gwendolyn, "Gallery Talk: Kevin Mullins, Jonathan Leach", **Ancient Vessel**, March 14, 2011
- Magazine; "Frequency: A Group Exhibition at Bank of America Center Houston", **Texas Monthly**, January 2011
- Presentation; "The Artist's Eye", **Menil Collection**, January 9, 2011
- 2010
- Blog; Carl, Calvin Ross, "Gallery Homeland: Jonathan Leach", **Open Wide PDX**, December 2010
- Web-Magazine; Driscoll, Megan, "First Weekend Picks", **PORT**, November 2010
- Newspaper; Britt, Douglas, "Is Abstract The New Black?", **Houston Chronicle**, November 17, 2010
- Blog; Boyd, Robert, "Houston Abstractionists Outside the Loop", **The Great God Pan is Dead**, November 5, 2010
- Magazine; Kamps, Toby, **New American Paintings, West #90**, October/November 2010
- Web-Magazine; Korman, Sam, **Jonathan Leach**, Art Lies, Fall 2010
- Newspaper; Britt, Douglas, "Exhibit Comes to Life in Print, in Person", **Houston Chronicle**, September 3, 2010
- Newspaper; Britt, Douglas, "Gallery Shows Range from Bizarre to Provocative", **Houston Chronicle**, July 30, 2010
- Magazine; Schmal, Jody, "Best of the City 2010", **Houston**, Page 83, February 2010
- Newspaper; Anspson, Catherine, "Up and Comers/Heavy Metal", **PaperCity**, February 2010
- 2009
- Newspaper; Britt, Douglas, "Art Highlights in 2009", **Houston Chronicle**, December 24, 2009
- Magazine; "Hopping Island", **Houston**, page 70, December 2009
- Magazine; Sultan, Terrie, **New American Paintings, #84**, October/November 2009
- Radio; Hendley, Meghan, "Interview with Jonathan Leach", **KUHF's The Front Row, NPR**, August 6, 2009
- Newspaper; Britt, Douglas, "Jonathan Leach's Art dazzles, uplifts", **Houston Chronicle**, August 7, 2009
- Blog; Fielder, Garland, "Jonathan Leach; A Review", **Houston ArtsWeek**, July 26, 2009

- 2008 Presentation; "Slide Jam!", **Contemporary Arts Museum Houston**, October 2008
Catalog; Schmuckli, Claudia, "2008 Houston Area Exhibition", **Blaffer Gallery:
Houston**, 2008
- 2004 Magazine; Wasson, Katheran, "Intrinsic Appeal: New Gallery Offers New
Opportunities", **Nougat Magazine**, 1, no5, July 15 - August 15, 2004

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Hess Company - Houston, TX
Houston Airport System, William P. Hobby Airport - Houston, TX
Museum of Fine Arts Houston - Houston, TX
NRG Texas - Houston, TX
The Bank of Montreal Collection