

Morgan Sims

Artist Statement

This body of work began by looking at palettes my students were using in my painting classes at Elmhurst College. The communal palettes had thick, built-up layers of paint with arrangements of color and brushstrokes that looked both chaotic and beautiful, and inspired how I approached my paintings.

The shapes of these canvases are sort of random. I chose geometric shapes because they hold a relationship with traditional painting, but I also wanted there to be no up and down, and in theory these paintings could be hung in any direction. Like shards or pieces from a larger whole, these paintings are cross sections of movement and texture. The resulting image, like a palette, becomes more happenstance.

My decision to add neon developed in response to the paintings. It is fun to look at a painting and decipher lines or movements between blocks of color that can be attempted in glass. I hope that the neon complements the paintings and vice versa. The title of the show comes from the first painting I started in this series. I think it is a nice way to think about materials (pigments and gasses) as earthly substances, and how amidst human activity, Earth is hiding in plain sight.

Morgan Sims

Resume

Education

Master of Fine Arts, 2010, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Master of Arts, 2009, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2004, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Solo Exhibitions

2020

Camouflage for Earth, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2019

Morgan Sims, One of a Kind Show, Chicago, IL

2017

Magnet Dust, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2016

Rainbo Club, Chicago, IL

2015

Metropolis, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2014

Clair E. Smith Gallery, Barrington High School, Barrington, IL

Intimation, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL

Far-Out, Saki Records, Chicago, IL

2013

New Paintings and Neon, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2010

The Closer You Get, MFA exhibition, UW Madison, Madison, WI

2009

Spectacular Spectacular, MA Exhibition, Madison, WI

2007

The Early Years, Joe Bar, Seattle, WA

2006

Print Zero Studios, Seattle, WA

Group Exhibitions

2019

Bertrand Productions, SOFA Chicago, Chicago, IL

Horse Thief, Bertrand Productions, Philadelphia, PA

Morgan Sims and Joseph Leroux, ICFF, New York, NY

Morgan Sims and Rachel Borchert, Lula Cafe, Chicago, IL

2018

Scorched Tundra, The Empty Bottle, Chicago, IL

2017

Making Our Mark, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA

Shapeshifters, Beatnik Studios, Sacramento, CA

Dreamland, The Empty Bottle, Chicago, IL

Multiple Visions II, Faculty Exhibition, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL

Lubinski Furniture, Chicago, IL

2016

Faculty Past and Present, UPS Kittredge Gallery, Tacoma, WA

Rise Over Run, Metropolitan Capital, Chicago, IL

Sightings, Pataphysical Society, Portland, OR

Paperish Mess, Chicago, IL

2015

Tip Your Delivery Boy, Saki Records, Chicago, IL

Keep Your Mind in Hell and Despair Not, Terraformer, Chicago, IL

2014

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival, Chicago, IL

Spotlight, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

2013

Cohesion, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival, Chicago, IL

Graveyard, Terraformer, Chicago, IL

Monuments and Ruins, Frogman Gallery, Chicago, IL

The Ice Box Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Unconventional Narratives, The Art Museum, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY

Thinking of You, The Tight Ship Series at Octagon Gallery, Chicago, IL

2012

Meltdown, Octagon Gallery, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

Heaven Gallery, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

Too Much is Never Enough, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Second Day Scenery, Azimuth Pop Up Gallery, Chicago, IL

12th Year Anniversary Show, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Space Vulture Worship Project, Happy Dog Gallery, Chicago, IL

Circa 1970, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Reality Slips, Robert Bills Contemporary, Chicago, IL

Drawn With a Knife, Morpho Gallery, Chicago, IL

Society of the Spectacular, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

2011

Camp, Octagon Gallery, Chicago, IL

Open Studio Extravaganza, Chicago, IL

Generous Beast, Forte Framing and Gallery, Chicago, IL

Double Trouble, Milk Factory Gallery, Chicago, IL

Pratt Gallery, Tashiro Kaplan Building, Seattle, WA

2010

Packer Schopf Gallery, Chicago, IL

Kick-off Exhibition, The Milk Factory, Chicago, IL

Put Away Your Childish Things, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI

Forward: UW Madison Graduate Exhibition, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

Home Sweet Home, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI

2009

Satisfaction Town, Southern Graphics Conference, Chicago, IL

2008

Fresh Hot Press, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI

2007

People + Place, Seattle Portable Works, Municipal Tower Gallery, Seattle, WA

Emerging Student Exhibition, D'Adomo/Woltz Gallery, Seattle, WA

Ink and Clay 33, Cal State Poly Technic University; Pomona, CA

2006

Forgotten Works Challenge, OK Hotel, Seattle, WA

Northwest Fine Arts Competition, Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, WA

Selected Public Collections

Neiman Marcus

BMO Harris

Seattle Portable Works

Bibliography

2017

Studio Visit Magazine, Volume 37

2016

Studio Visit Magazine, Volume 36

2013

Art Ltd. Magazine, Morgan Sims: Paintings and Neon at Bert Green Fine Art

New City Art Chicago, Portrait of the Artist: Morgan Sims

Monarch Daily, Abstractions with Light and Paint: An Interview with Morgan Sims

2010

50/50 Survey of Contemporary Printmaking, Print Zero Studios

Awards/Positions

2013

Panelist, Southern Graphics Conference, Milwaukee, WI

2009

Visiting Artist, Murray State University, Murray, KY

2007

Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, King County, Seattle, WA, Purchase Award