

# JEFF MYERS

Jeff Myers was raised in a photojournalistic environment; both his parents are photographers and with the guidance of Ansel Adams in their early stages of photographing, they amassed a visual archive of 700,000 transparencies of the west and its people. Jeff Myers recalls, “One day we would be photographing a cotton gin and the next a protest for migrant farm workers rights at the state capitol.” Myers has been published by National Geographic, National Wildlife, Animals Magazine of London and many other publications. Due to dyslexia, Myers struggled greatly in the public education system and had to create his own path for learning. This entailed taking many college art courses and spending many hours with working artists such as Wayne Thiebaud, who remains a close friend to this day. Myers began exhibiting at the age of 15 and debuted with a one person show at the Michael Himovitz gallery at 19. Myers's early paintings deal with marginalized American sub-cultures juxtaposed with class differences. “I have always been interested in contrasts, whether cultural, environmental or visual”, Myers explains. This body of work was influenced by Italian Futurism and the Mexican Muralists. “I wanted to wed the staccato frequency of Boccioni with the scale and subject matter of Siqueiros”, Myers states. Years later after re-locating to New York, Myers completed “The Undercurrent Project,” a visual study of people's work environments who were at the center of new media in the print and fashion worlds. Having first constructed three dimensional aluminum reliefs, Myers then painted the sitters fragmented portraits with work spaces. Myers reflects, “ Here was this broad digital front that was shaping cultural opinion, and my visual inquiry took it back to the intimate; I wanted to show the back story”. Myers staged two exhibitions of “The Undercurrent Project” in the cavernous Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center, in Brooklyn New York.

Myers eventually moved back to Northern California, where the vision of vast spaces and the people who worked the land contrasted greatly with the New York environment. Thus was born, “The Land Series”, in painting and in digital photography, “The Bodyen Series”. Both series deal with the great contrasts, and yet critical links, between the frenetic digitized urban consciousness and the quiet stillness of agricultural land. Antiquated farm machinery became a starting point. “The tractors and threshers seem to be the holders of secrets, much like a Zen koan.” Through the use of reverse-perspective, Myers layers cities such as Tokyo or New York around and within the giant machines. This interaction creates a type of high bred Ag/Urban metaphor.

With over 25 years working as a full time artist, Myers's authenticity is both provocative and pioneering, showing that an artist can be multidisciplinary by interlacing new and old media and still retain ones own original voice. Myers's paintings and photographs have been published and written about over seventy times nationally and locally. Myers continues to exhibit across the country and has national following.

## **Principle teachers:**

University of California, Davis. Art. 1989 – 1992, Wayne Theibaud, Roland Peterson

Sacramento City College, Art. 1987 – 1992, Fred Dalkey, Darrell Forney, Lauren Landau

California State University, Art. 1989 – 1992, Oliver Jackson, Stephen Kaltenbach

## **SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS, AWARDS & MAJOR COMMISSIONS**

Solo Exhibition, "Bountiful Harvest" Sotheby's Gallery, Montclair, CA

Solo Exhibition, "Levitation" Governors Club Gallery, Chapel Hill, NC

Presentation of Anthony Bourdain Portrait to Jeremiah Towers, The Bridge Dinner

Installation of major private commission, New York, NY

Solo Artist for "California Legends of Wine" Front steps, State Capital building

Solo Exhibition, "Larger than Life" Elliott Fouts Gallery

Public Commission, "Tractor Levitation" Full size elevated tractor, McKinley Village

Solo Exhibition, "Tractor Consciousness" The California Agriculture Museum

Installation, "Segmented Forest" Paris & Lyon, France

Solo Exhibition, "The Land Series, Part 2" The California Agriculture Museum

Solo Exhibition, "The Land Series, Part 2" The BARTH Gallery

Solo Exhibition, "The Nature of Droids and Machines" Alex Bult Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, "The Legends of California Wine Making" Front steps, State Capitol Building

Solo Exhibition, "The Secret Life of Machines" Alex Bult Gallery

Solo Exhibition, Heidrick Ag History Center, Woodland, CA

Solo Exhibition, "The Land Series" Alex Bult Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, The Stienbeck conference, Colusa, CA

Solo Exhibition, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, Pacific Zen Institute, "Deconstructing The Visual Koan" Santa Rosa, CA

Solo Exhibition, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, "The undercurrent project" two part exhibition,  
Greenpiont Manufacturing and Design Center, Brooklyn, NY

Solo Exhibition, "Urban/Agrarian, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition “Back Lot” Solo Exhibition, 115 Franklin Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

Solo Exhibition “Under Current, Part 1”, The Greenpiont Design Center, Brooklyn, NY

Designed large painted window installation for DDC Lab, New York, NY

Solo Exhibition “*Works on Paper*” Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, “New Work” Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, “New Horizons” The Sutter Club Art Space, Sacramento CA

Solo Exhibition, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Art of California Magazine, "Discovery Award"

Hill Arts Foundation, “Most Original Work Award” Ingram, TX

Solo Exhibition, “The Marginalised” Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Museum Without Walls, Art Competition, New York City, NY

Solo Exhibition, “The Converted” Karen Rosenhoover gallery, Beverly Hills, CA

Solo Exhibition, “Night Pulse” Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solo Exhibition, Gregory Kondos Gallery, Sacramento City College, CA

Solo Exhibition, “Beyond Modernism" in conjunction with Sacramento Camellia Symphony

Solo Exhibition, “City Living” Michael Himovitz Gallery, Sacramento, CA

After Hours Art, Fine Arts Competition, Area Design Professionals, Sacramento, CA

### **SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

“Farm to Fork” Elliotte Fouts Gallery

“The Fragile Delta” Robert Ellis Museum, California State College, CA

“The Centennial Exhibition” 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Sacramento City College,  
Gregory Kondos Gallery.

“Big Names Small Art” Crocker Art Museum

Transmission Gallery, Oakland, CA

“The Bodyen Series” Skinner Howard Gallery

Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

“California Figurative, Jeff Myers & Mel Ramos” Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

“Local Painters To Watch For” *The Sutter Club ART SPACE*, Sacramento, CA

“*Small Treasures*”, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

“*The Three Graces*”, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

“Portrait of my Farther”, Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento CA

Solomon Dubnick Gallery, USArt Expo, Festival Building, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA

“The Visual Crossroads”, Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Solomon Dubnick Gallery, USArt Expo, Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA

Sandy Carson Gallery, Denver CO.

“*Slivers of Abstraction/Shades of Reflection*” Solomon Dubnick Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Pence Gallery, Davis, CA

Somar Gallery, San Francisco, CA

A. Alan Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT (April)

Viewpoint Gallery, San Mateo, CA

ARC Gallery, Chicago, IL (April)

Natsoulas-Novelozy Gallery/Pistachio's, Davis, CA

New Age Gallery, Sacramento, CA

So-To-Do Gallery, Sacramento, CA

Set design, Exchange for the Performing Arts, “*Suburban Tragedy*” Sacramento, CA

California State University Art Space, Sacramento, CA

## EXCERPTS FROM CRITICAL REVIEWS

“Indeed Myers is a deft and prolific painter. Large swatches of paint, delicate impressionist daubs, surfaces built up or surfaces scraped, all point to the same conclusion, namely, that he is a talent”

By James Scarborough

VISIONS ART QUARTERLY MAGAZINE – from three page article

“HARVEST OF COLOR AND LIGHT”

“These machine images are compelling and there made more so by Myers brilliant handling of color.”

By Victoria Dalkey, THE SACRAMENTO BEE - from two page, 6 image article

“Wedding earnest social subject matter and expressionistic color and brushwork with the explosive visions of the Italian Futurists, his eye-jarring. Disjunctive paintings contained echos of Boccioni's Burning City, social realist murals, and the operatic emotionalism and scale of neoexpressionistic painters.”

By Victoria Dalkey,

ART OF CALIFORNIA MAGAZINE – from three page article.

“Jeff Myers' paintings and prints present the viewer with compelling images of a world in flux. Combining abstraction and representation, Myers creates a feeling of poetic sensibility through interwoven perspectives”

By Shirley Dubnick

ART NOW GALLERY GUIDE, WEST COAST – with cover image and article.

“The new exhibition of big, brash, wonderfully peculiar paintings by Jeff Myers makes it clear that Jeff Myers was no one day wonder.”

By Victoria Dalkey

SACRAMENTO BEE – From one page article, Encore section.

“Remember Lumiere's cinema-verite and Milies' cinema-fantasy of the 1890s? Well, Myers' versions of Lumiere's Man Watering His Garden and other commonplace eventualities suggest opposing polemics of two disparate dualities: the mundane (realism), and arcane (surrealism) , inter-blend in Myers' paintings.”

By Darrell Forney

ON THE WING - from three page article with images.

“The figures, while central to the action, seem alienated from the fictive aerial views of lively and colorful industrial landscapes. Myers' oils concentrate on scenes of the human condition and the made environment, resulting in a “tug-o-war” between realism and abstraction”

By Shirley Dubnick

ART NOW GALLERY GUIDE, WEST COAST – from two page article.

## **SELECT LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

National Public Radio, “Insight,” Beth Ruyak interviews Jeff Myers on new exhibition

Art in America, Jeff Myers, “New Works”

The Business Journal, Ed Goldman interviews Jeff Myers about his art and life

Sacramento Bee, By Victoria Dalkey, “Jeff Myers' new show is 'larger than life'”

Art News, Jeff Myers, “City and Land”

San Francisco Examiner, By Barbara Steingberg, “Jeff Myers Solo Art Exhibition”

Sacramento Bee, by Victoria Dalkey, “Art Picks”

Inside Editions, By Jessica Laskey, “Don't Rage Against The Machine”

San Francisco Examiner, By Barbara Steingberg “Jeff Myers New Work”

Sacramento Bee, By Victoria Dalkey, “The Secret Life of Machines”

Sacramento Bee, Feature with five images by Victoria Dalkey “Harvest of Color and Light”

The Sacramento Bee, by Victoria Dalkey, “Jeff Myers at Skinner Howard”

San Francisco Examiner, By Barbara Steinberg, “Solo exhibition features local artist Jeff Myers”

Art Now Gallery Guide, West Coast, Cover with article by Shirley Dubnick,  
“Jeff Myers at Solomon Dubnick”

Art of California, “The Bold Off-Beat Works Of Jeff Myers” by Victoria Dalkey

Visions Art Quarterly, feature article by James Scarborough, “Jeff Myers Profile”

Art Now Gallery Guide, West Coast, “Preview”

Sacramento Bee, by Victoria Dalkey, “Suden Impact”

On The Wing, article by Darrell Forney, “The innovative work of Jeff Myers”

## **Select list of corporate and private collections**

Stephan Held Productions, Brooklyn New York, NY

Cinefugue Films, Berkeley, CA

Environment California, Sacramento, CA

Black Book Magazine, New York, NY

Fulcrum Property Group, Sacramento, CA

U.C. Davis Medical Center Internal Medicine department, Sacramento, CA

Google Inc. Mountain View, CA

The Lee Romero Collection, New York, NY

The Bonny Young Collection, New York, NY

MTS Tower Records Inc., West Sacramento

Harrison, Temblador, Hungerford & Johnson, Law firm, Sacramento, CA

California Public Defenders Association, Rancho Cordova, CA

The Matthew Bult Collection, Thiebaud Foundation, Sacramento, CA

Sacramento City College, Sacramento, CA

The John Beaudry Collection, Seoul, South Korea

Dowd & Marietta, Law Firm, New York, NY

The Doris Solomon Collection, Carmichael, CA

The Gorge Ho Collection, Taipei, Taiwan

The Michel Solomon Collection, Sacramento, CA

Dunnington, Bartholow & Miller, Law Firm, New York, NY

The Catherine Bunch Collection, San Fransisco, CA

The Gina Gold Collection, New York, NY

The Russ Solomon Collection, Sacramento, CA

The Michael Cantrell Collection, Pilot Hill, CA

The Burnett Miller Collection, Sacramento, CA

## **Photography**

Jeff Myers has been published over a hundred times in such publications as:

National Geographic

National Wildlife

Animals Magazine of London

New York Times

Terre Sauvage