

LYONS WIER GALLERY

542 W. 24th Street • New York, NY • 10011

TARA LEWIS



Lone Ranger
2020, Oil on polycotton
70 x 40 in / 178 x 102 cm

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HA HA HA
2019, Oil on linen
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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Hell Yes

2019, Oil on canvas
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

www.LyonsWierGallery.com

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Love, Love, Love
2018, Oil on linen
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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Most Likely
2019, Oil on linen
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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Most Likely II
2019, Oil on canvas
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm

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Love Hangover
2020, Oil on canvas
48 x 36 in / 122 x 91 cm

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As If

2019, Oil on canvas
30 x 24 in / 76 x 61 cm

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Love You
2020, Oil on linen
20 x 16 in / 51 x 41 cm

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“Hell Yes!” portrays real-life subjects adorned with incongruous props, artist-made t-shirts and satin pageant sashes boasting pop culture text idioms. Her portrait process happens organically as models go through her wardrobe, accessories and props to discover a ‘persona’. These ‘play-dates’ serve as a pivotal ingredient for her practice as they are the underpinning of the subsequent photoshoot that serves as the source material for her paintings. Referencing this initial imagery, Lewis explores celebrated cultural forces such as the Lone Ranger, high school cheering squads, home-court basketball, yearbook superlatives, track shorts, tube socks and tennis headbands which feature in the work.

Lewis’ collaborative approach documents a consciousness of place, playfulness and self-awareness framed by irreverence and raw candor that she is known for. Her compositions portray coming-of-age empowerment, authenticity, spontaneity and informality expressing an entirely new story; one that is intentionally left open-ended, allowing for a timeless resonance. Lewis’ cleverness of interweaving modernity and past pop-cultural phenomena renders imagery that comments on society’s evolving perceptions of youth, girl culture, beauty, identity, teen trends, empowerment, social issues and pop culture. The paintings play with scale, redefine gender stereotypes and revisit past decades with a dose of satirical zing that results in trophy toting portraiture and willful non-conformist debutantes gone rebel-rogue.

Tara Lewis earned her BA in Painting and Printmaking at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH and her MA in Visual Studios and Art Education at Tufts University and The Museum School in Boston, MA. Lewis has spent over a decade as a Professor and Chair of the Department of Art at Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH. Her artwork has been included in exhibitions and events at the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, CO, The Watermill Center, Watermill, NY, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY, New York Fashion Week and is held in private collections in Palm Beach, New York, London, Los Angeles and Hong Kong. Lewis has been featured in publications such as Whitewall Magazine, New York Magazine, Elle, Vice, Artnet, Art + Auction, and Cultured Magazine among others, and was recently published in RxArt’s Between the Lines, Volume 7: Contemporary Artist Coloring Book.

Lewis designs and prints her own text idioms onto wearable objects such as satin pageant sashes, t-shirts, trophies and ping pong paddles, which she considers unique limited-edition print objects. These objects convey messages, re-examine stereotypes & explore timeless youth culture and serve as a trampoline for her paintings. The interaction of word & image is central to her work. Lewis is a direct descendant of Art Nouveau artist Alphonse Mucha, one of her primary influences, who also infused typefaces and cultural portraiture into his celebrated and pivotal compositions. The artist lives and works in New York City.

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TARA LEWIS

b. 1970 in Exeter, NH. Live and works in New York City.

EDUCATION

- 1994 MA Visual Studies & Art Education, Tufts University & The Museum School, Boston, MA
- 1992 BA in Painting & Printmaking | University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Hell Yes!, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY
- 2019 Too Cool for School, Blackbird Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 Some Girls, Conant Gallery, Lawrence Academy, Groton, MA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 On Guard NY, Kasia Kay Art Projects, The Storefront Project, New York, NY
NOMO SoHo, Curatorial Partnership, painting installation in tandem with On Guard NY
Party 2019 RxART Benefit Auction, Paddle8, New York, NY
Tabula Rasa, The Watermill Center 26th Annual Summer Benefit Art Auction, Watermill, NY
IRL: Investigating Reality, The Untitled Space, New York, NY
ARTiculate, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter NH
Impact, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
- 2018 MILLY x Tara Lewis, NYFW SS/19 Collaboration, Spring Studios, New York, NY
ArtCrush, Aspen Art Museum Annual Art Benefit Auction and Gala, Aspen, CO
- 2017 Small Works 2017, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (curated by Bill Carroll)
She Inspires, The Untitled Space, New York, NY
Et Tu, Art Brute?, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY
- 2016 Indy 500 & Beyond, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH
- 2015 Print Facets: Six Centuries of Printmakers, Michelman Fine Art, New York, NY
- 2014 Self-Made, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH
- 2012 PaperView, Manhattan Print Center, New York, NY
- 2011 Seven Up, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH
NurtureART Benefit and Juried Auction, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY
In Portrait, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY
Portraits, Black Pop Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dual, Gershwin Hotel, New York, NY

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- ReView, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
2010 NY Art Now, New York Studio Gallery, LES, New York, NY
Get it On Paper, Playspace Projects Tribeca, New York, NY
2009 Hey, Hot Shot!, Jen Bekman Projects, New York, NY
Rare Pleasures, Parlor Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ
2007 Art x 7: New Works, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH
Momentum II, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2019 RxART's Between the Lines, Volume 7: Contemporary Artist Coloring Book, New York, NY
2018 Artist Advancement Grant Finalist, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
2013 New Prints Autumn Juror, International Print Center of New York, NY
2012 Pace Gallery + Estate of Sol LeWitt Wall Drawing Installation Team, New York, NY
2012 IDEAS CITY Street Fest, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY
2003 Artist Advancement Grant Finalist, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
1993 Hearst Grant, Tufts University Graduate School Recipient
1991 Research Grant Recipient, UROP, University of New Hampshire
1990 Robert Hooper Art Talent Scholarship, University of New Hampshire

SELECTED PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

- ARTNET NEWS "Editors' Picks: 19 Things Not to Miss in New York's Art World This Week"
10/30/19
WHITEWALL Magazine / "Milly Gets Artsy With Tara Lewis SS19" / September 2018
CULTURED MAGAZINE "Our 2018 ArtCrush Diary" August 2018
PAPER CITY / "Fashion Designer's Ha Ha Moment Goes Beyond the Michelle Obama Love" / 2018
Between The Lines, Vol. 7 | RxArt Contemporary Artist Coloring Book (forthcoming 2019)
NY MAGAZINE / This Art Exhibition Is Raising Money for Women to Run for Office / May 2017
Creators x VICE / 'SHE INSPIRES' at a Massive Exhibition of Artists / May 2017
ELLE / 60 Powerful Women Are On Show She Inspires / May 2017
WWD / The Untitled Space Art Gallery Launches Latest Exhibit 'She Inspires' / April 2017
VICE / 60 Contemporary Artists Made Works to Honor Inspiring Women / May 2017
Bullett Magazine / The Exhibit Honoring Radical Women From Joan Didion to Cher / May 2017
Five Centuries of Printmakers Catalogue, Michelman Fine Art, New York 2014

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LA Review of Books, Summer Issue. Diptychs Photo Spread 7/13
Art+Auction | Blouin ArtInfo, 'Getting Schooled' 5/12
Art+Auction | Blouin ArtInfo, 'Inside Avenues' 6/12
Jen Bekman Projects, New York NY. "Hey Hot Shot!" Critical Review 10/09
Art Boars, New York. "Tara Misenheimer, Twiggy Braid" feature 9/10
Red Bank Orbit, New Jersey. "Always a Pleasure" Art Review 6/09
Artscope Magazine, "Cover Out Takes" 9/07
artMatters Juried Exhibition-In-Print, Boston MA 6/04
The Wire Magazine, "Review: Double Feature" Portsmouth, NH 1/04
Portland Phoenix, "Art Review' Portland, ME 1/04
Spotlight Magazine, Boston MA 1/04
Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth NH 12/03 Art New England Magazine 12/03
Coloring History: History of New England /Interactive Arts Community Project 9/91
National Zoological Park. Illustrator, All About Birds, Smithsonian Institution 8/88