

# SPENCER LAI

www.spencerlai.info

b. 1991, Malaysia, lives and works in Melbourne.

## EDUCATION

2014 Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours), Victorian College for the Arts, Melbourne

2009 – 2013 Bachelor of Fine Art, RMIT University, Melbourne

## MEMBERSHIPS

2019 - 2022 TCB Gallery, Board Member

## SELECTED SOLO & TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Academy for the Sensitive Arts*, Theta, New York (forthcoming)  
*Oriental Painting.*, Neon Parc, Melbourne  
*A Patience Game*, Jürgen Bauman & Spencer Lai (two person exhibition), Holden Garage, Berlin  
*Up the hill in my city shoes*, Spencer Lai & Allan Rand (two person exhibition), Melbourne
- 2021 *buddhaminefield.*, Ge Hinnom Small Group Love, London  
*Bitch Biscuit*, Victoria Todorov & Spencer Lai (two person exhibition), Bossy's Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 *Air becomes metallic scented as anger is emitted [...]*, Kimberly-Klark, New York  
*hushed pupils*, Fort Delta, Melbourne
- 2017 *Contaminant, figures*, Fort Delta, Melbourne
- 2016 *B E AT P E ACE, lovely, lovely*, Fort Delta, Melbourne  
*LENTO VIOLENTO*, TCB Art. INC, Melbourne
- 2015 *youth, born at brunch (from a wish)*, George Paton Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 *do you want me to come downstairs, with rollers in my hair?*, BLINDSIDE, Melbourne
- 2012 *Pleasure Structures, Contemporary Lifestyles*, c3 Contemporary, Melbourne

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *You're Finally Awake!*, Theta, New York  
*The body speaks before it even talks, 99%*, Melbourne  
*Comfort the Afflicted*, Envy, Wellington  
*More Love*, Asbestos, Melbourne  
*Text Tile*, Caves Gallery, Melbourne  
*Kleptotherapy*, Cool Change Contemporary, Perth  
*As Real As It Gets*, Seventh Gallery, Melbourne
- 2021 *White Lillies* (online exhibition), Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York  
*All worlds are flat*, Blindside, Melbourne  
*Salon Hostel*, Hostel Gallery, Melbourne
- 2020 *Improvements & Reproductions*, West Space, Melbourne  
*1991*, Neon Parc, Melbourne  
*there's no art in heaven*, Mejia, Melbourne  
*MORANGOS COM AÇÚCAR*, A Maior, Portugal  
*Freedom is the gentle exploration of boundaries [...]*, Discordia Gallery, Melbourne
- 2019 *Whorled*, Constance ARI, Hobart  
*No Righteous Left Among The Living*, COMA Gallery, Sydney  
*Weeping gasoline dream*, Mejia, Melbourne  
*Carny*, Neon Parc, Melbourne  
*Toys 'R' Us*, Second Space Projects, Melbourne  
*Untitled*, Low Standards, Oslo
- 2018 *On the Homefront*, Lubov, New York  
*Untitled show*, Sydney Sydney, Sydney  
*The drawing is simply not there*, West Space, Melbourne  
*There is a pain - so utter*, Gertrude Glasshouse, Melbourne  
*Head over Heels*, OnCurating Project Space, Zurich  
*Auto Body Works*, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne

- 2017 *On Being*, Honeymoon Suite, Melbourne  
*En suite*, Island Island, Melbourne  
*OPTIMISM & FUTILITY*, Irene Rose, Melbourne  
*WE COLLAPSE, WE BUILD NEW CITIES*, Australian National Capital Artists, Canberra  
*Low roofs make one feel like a mole in general*, Rear View, Melbourne  
*I am a branch floating on a swollen river after the rain*, Gertrude Contemporary
- 2016 *Saturn Returns*, Fort Delta, Melbourne  
*AFFIDAVIT VITO ACCONCI*, Gertrude Glasshouse, Melbourne  
*A Really Good Look, TarraWarra Biennale: Endless Circulation*, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Melbourne  
*To Wound The Autumnal City*, Punk Cafe, Melbourne  
*The Bathhouse Show*, offsite location, Tokyo, Japan  
*Widow's Walk*, LON Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 *the smell of an oily rag*, Fort Delta, Melbourne  
*CABIN FEVER CREATURE*, off-site location, Melbourne
- 2014 *Draw backs*, Fort Delta, Melbourne  
*PROUD 2014*, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Australian Council for the Arts, Arts Projects For Individuals and Groups  
 Sustaining Creative Workers, Creative Victoria
- 2020 City of Melbourne Quick Response (COVID-19), City of Melbourne  
 Sustaining Creative Workers, Creative Victoria
- 2014 George Paton Gallery/PROUD award recipient

## EXHIBITION CURATION

- 2019 - Current Bossy's Gallery (co-founder)
- 2020 *Freedom is the gentle exploration of boundaries [...]*, Discordia Gallery, Melbourne
- 2019 *Weeping gasoline dream*, Mejia, Melbourne  
*Hippies use the side door to enter the bazaar*, The Drill Hall, Darling Point, Sydney
- 2018 *A smile forms into a grimace mid-slumber as the earth spins [...]*, Bus Projects, Melbourne  
*inside voice harvester*, Irene Rose, Melbourne

## PRESS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2022 Fateman, Joanna; "You're Finally Awake!", New Yorker, 9 February  
 Schmidt, Audrey; "More Love", Memo Review, 18 June
- 2020 Schmidt, Audrey & Hurst, Cameron; "xoxo Grotty Gossip Girls: Australian Abject Art", 20 January
- 2019 Schmidt, Audrey; "In Costume", Memo Review, 16 November  
 Schmidt, Audrey; "Carny", Memo Review, 16 February
- 2018 Davis, Miles; "Frankensteining: Interview and Images with Spencer Lai", Story House Select, 19 October  
 Kubler, Alison; "Forecast: Spencer Lai", Vault Magazine Issue 23, 30 July  
 Plagne, Francis; "Spencer Lai: A smile forms into a grimace [...]", Memo Review, 17 November  
 Winata, Amelia; "Critic's Choice", Australian Art Collector, April-June
- 2017 Winata, Amelia; "Spencer Lai: Contaminant, figures", Memo Review, 22 July  
 Schmidt, Audrey; "Leftovers", exhibition text,
- 2016 Schmidt, Audrey; "Banquet at the Biennial", Art and Australia, 16 November

## ART FAIR PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Spring 1883, Fort Delta, The Windsor Hotel, Melbourne  
 New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA), New York
- 2017 Spring 1883, The Establishment Hotel, Sydney
- 2016 Spring 1883, Fort Delta, The Windsor Hotel, Melbourne

## TEACHING & LECTURES

- 2022 “Studio Methodologies”, Victorian College for the Arts, Sculpture 3rd Year, Melbourne, April - Nov  
“Student Mentoring”, Victorian College for the Arts, Sculpture Students, Melbourne, April - Nov  
“Guest Artist Talk”, Victorian College for the Arts, Painting 2nd Year, Melbourne, April 1
- 2021 “Student Mentoring”, Victorian College for the Arts, Sculpture Students, Melbourne, April - Nov  
“Guest Artist Talk with Artist in Residence Jade Townsend”, Artspace Aotearoa, April 8
- 2020 “Guest Artist Talk”, Monash University, 1st Year Interdisciplinary Class, Melbourne, October 14  
“Guest Artist Talk”, Victorian College for the Arts, Sculpture 3rd Year, Melbourne, October 12

## CONFERENCES, READINGS & WORKSHOPS

- 2022 “No more talking”, NGV, poetry and prose reading, March 18
- 2021 “Practicing Futures Together”, MPavilion, February 17
- 2019 “Queer and Transgender Experiences as VCA Alumni”, Victorian College for the Arts, panel discussion  
“Is Jewelry a Luxury?”, RMIT Design Hub, panel discussion, March 17  
“Assemblage Workshop” with Kate Meakin, RMIT Fashion (Advanced Fashion & Textiles), March 17
- 2017 “The Limits of the Page”, RMIT Design Hub, Panel discussion, March 17

## SELECTED PUBLICATION

- 2021 “om (Texts: 2014 - 2021)”, no more poetry  
“no rave: wagon wheel metatheatre”, Zurich Moves
- 2020 “i.e -- for the people, we will be”, no more poetry
- 2017 Artist page commission, Un Magazine
- 2016 “HEROES”, Centre for Style & 3ply

## GROUP/COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 2019 *In Costume*, with Brendan Morris, Mejia
- 2016 *mummy has the bends again [...]*, The Community, Paris  
*Can't Look, Can't Look Away*, Counihan Gallery, Melbourne  
*A Really Good Look*, for *TarraWarra 2016 Biennial*, TarraWarra Museum, Victoria  
*An Awful Leisure*, Pasy Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 *WORLD INDUSTRIES: A GROUP SHOW BY MONICA'S GALLERY*, Punk Cafe, Melbourne