

SPENCER LAI

www.spencerlai.info

Born Sarawak, Malaysia. Lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.

Education

- 2014 Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours), Victorian College for the Arts, Melbourne
2009 – 2013 Bachelor of Fine Art, RMIT University, Melbourne

Employment

- 2021 - Present Sessional Tutor (casual), Victorian College for the Arts, Melbourne

Other Teaching & Related Experiences

- 2023 Guest lecturer, RMIT University, Melbourne
2022 Guest lecturer, Monash University, Melbourne
Guest lecturer, Victorian College for the Arts, Melbourne,
2020 Guest lecturer, Monash University, Melbourne

Solo Exhibitions

- 2023 *Let us be silent so that we may hear the whisper of God: the strained tremors of life rise from dark billows of muteness as a modern wind soars beneath engineered wings*, Neon Parc, Melbourne
He has left us alone but sometimes he graces us with shafts of light with touch the corners of our rooms (Girl's Names), Asbestos, Melbourne
- 2022 *Academy for the Sensitive Arts*, Theta, New York
Oriental Painting., Neon Parc, Melbourne
A Patience Game (with Jürgen Baumann), Holden Garage, Berlin
Up the hill in my city shoes (with Allan Rand), Air-BnB location, Melbourne
- 2021 *buddhaminefield.*, Ge Hinnom Small Group Love, London
Bitch Biscuit (with Victoria Todorov), Bossy's Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 *'Air becomes metallic scented as anger is emitted, a bounding animal halts as blood in crimson unfurls in still waterhole'*, Kimberly-Klark, New York
A smile becomes a grimace as the world spins -- it is funny, the sound of laughter – it is like god's hands on the shoulders of a troubled world, Bus Projects, Melbourne
hushed pupils, Fort Delta, Melbourne
- 2017 *Contaminant, figures*, Fort Delta, Melbourne
- 2016 *LENTO VIOLENTO*, TCB, Melbourne
B E AT P E ACE, lovely, lovely, Fort Delta, Melbourne
- 2015 *youth, born at brunch*, George Paton Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 *do you want me to come downstairs, with rollers in my hair?* (with Jake Swinson), Blindside, Melbourne

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2023 *Backwash*, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
Hulias, Oslo
Menagerié, Asbestos, Melbourne
Figuring Ground, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
- 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
Kleptotherapy, Cool Change Contemporary, Perth
- 2021 *White Lillies*, Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York
All worlds are flat, Blindside, 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
- 2019 *No Righteous Left Among The Living*, COMA Gallery, Sydney
Carny, Neon Parc, Melbourne
Untitled, Low Standards, Oslo
- 2018 *On the Homefront*, Lubov, New York
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 *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 *Dress Rehearsal* (In collaboration with Rare Candy/Centre for Style), 9th Berlin Biennale, Berlin
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

Grants

- 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

Press & Bibliography

- 2023 Ramirez, Diego; "Profile: Spencer Lai", Art Collector, Issue 105, July-Sept
2022 Carey, Brainard; "Interview with Spencer Lai", Yale University Radio, 2 November
Fateman, Joanna; "You're Finally Awake!", New Yorker, 9 February
Schmidt, Audrey; "More Love", Memo Review, 18 June
2019 Schmidt, Audrey; "In Costume", Memo Review, 16 November
Schmidt, Audrey; "Carny", Memo Review, 16 February
2018 Kubler, Alison; "Forecast: Spencer Lai", Vault Magazine Issue 23, 30 July
Plagne, Francis; "Spencer Lai: A smiles 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
2016 Schmidt, Audrey; "Banquet at the Biennial", Art and Australia, 16 November

Publications (Author)

- 2021 "om (Texts: 2014 - 2021)", no more poetry

Publications (Contributor)

- 2021 "no rave: wagon wheel metatheatre", Zürich 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

Exhibition Curation

- 2019 - Present Bossy's Gallery (co-founder)
- 2023 *Reception*, Aden Miller & Alexis Kanatsios, Docklands, Melbourne
2020 *Freedom is the gentle exploration of boundaries... I wear jeans, T-shirt, fragrance...*
Discordia Gallery, Melbourne
2019 *Weeping gasoline dream*, Mejia, Melbourne
Hippies use the side door to enter the bazaar, The Drill Hall, Sydney
2018 *A smile forms into a grimace mid-slumber as the earth spins — it's funny, such is the sound of laughter — it is like god's hands on the shoulders of a troubled world*, Bus Projects, Melbourne
inside voice harvester, Irene Rose, Melbourne

Collaborative Projects

- 2024 Forthcoming clothing collaboration with Kiko Kostadinov and Marc Jacobs Heaven
2019 *In Costume*, with Brendan Morris, Mejia
2016 *mummy has the bends again...*, The Community, Paris (with Jake Swinson, Jessie Kiely and Hali Christou)
A Really Good Look, TarraWarra 2016 Biennial, TarraWarra Museum, Victoria (with Jake Swinson, Jessie Kiely, Matthew Linde and Faye d'Evie)