

Spencer Lai

Curriculum Vitae 2023

Born Sarawak, Malaysia, 1991. Lives and works in Melbourne, Australia.
Represented by Neon Parc, Melbourne.

Education

2014 Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours), Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
2010 – 2014 Bachelor of Fine Art, RMIT University, Melbourne

Employment

2021 - Present Sessional Tutor, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

Relevant Experience

2020 - 2022 TCB Gallery Board Member

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 Neon Parc, Melbourne (upcoming)

2023 *Let us be silent so that we may hear the whisper of God: 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 shafts of light sometimes grace the corners of our rooms: Lotus-Eaters, 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

2012 *Pleasure Structures, Contemporary Lifestyles*, c3 Contemporary, Melbourne

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *At Home with Painting*, School of Art Gallery, Sydney (upcoming)
- 2023 *Frozen Blood*, Neon Parc
Backwash, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
South Yarra Grand Opening, Neon Parc
Figuring Ground, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales
Menagerié, Asbestos, Melbourne
- 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
Kleptothermy, 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
Not titled, 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
I am a branch floating on a swollen river after the rain, Gertrude Contemporary
- 2016 *Dress Rehearsal* (with Rare Candy/Centre for Style), 9th Berlin Biennale, Berlin
AFFIDAVIT VITO ACCONCI, Gertrude Glasshouse, Melbourne
TarraWarra Biennale: Endless Circulation (with Jake Swinson, Jessie Kiely, Fayen d'Evie and Matthew Linde),
TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria
To Wound The Autumnal City, Punk Cafe, 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 & 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

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

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

Publications (Author)

- 2021 "om (Texts: 2014 - 2021)", no more poetry
- 2018 "Actor (snouts)", Diane Incorporated

Publications (Contributor)

- 2023 "Backwash" Drill Hall Gallery Publishing, Canberra
- 2021 "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
"High Risk/Critical Fashion", Mode and Mode
- 2016 "HEROES-Fanfiction", 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