

Spencer Lai

Curriculum Vitae 2023

Born Sarawak, Malaysia, 1991

Lives and works in Melbourne, Australia

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

Solo Exhibitions

- 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 sometimes shafts of light sometimes grace the corner 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

- 2023 *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
- 2014 George Paton Gallery Award recipient

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