

SHAUN McDOWELL

b. 1981, Sussex, UK. Lives and works in Sabina, IT

Shaun McDowell makes striking paintings abundant in movement, drama, texture and harmonies. Working directly from the perceptible world, his apparently abstract pictures are the tangible expression of acute inner feelings, charged with the visual overload of a surrounding world where nothing is fixed. McDowell's paintings are rarely made by brush but by hand and with oil stick, which is rubbed, stubbed, smeared and spread across the board to create smooth areas of just-present colour, heavier built up passages and punctuations of elegant, staccato marks. Having relocated from London to the rolling hills of Torri, Italy, in 2018, McDowell's recent work is born from the natural landscape and historical setting of the Sabine region. Fusing abstraction with allusions to local history and motifs, such as hand-profiled elliptical panels water-gilded with gold, silver and platinum leaf, McDowell creates space and atmosphere to not only see but to feel the strange combined qualities of being alive.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025

L'Impression d'Anarchie, Vie Projects, Paris, FR

2024

Opera in Nine Orbits, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2017

Islands of ours, Andrews Gallery, Titanic Belfast, Belfast, UK

2016

Navigator, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2014

MOONS MASKS BIRDS DEMONS, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2012

The Souvenir, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2011

New Paintings, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

The Tangled Grove, Brickhouse at Nutbrook Studios, London, UK

2008

Confessions and Love Pictures, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025

Stars and Painted Verse, The Hyde Bridge Gallery, Sligo, EI

2021

Tree and Leaf, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2020

O Sole Mio, Parasol Unit, London, UK

When Net Becomes Form, Galería Alegría, Barcelona, ES

2018

ABSINTHE, Collective Ending, London, UK

You see me like a UFO, Marcelle Joseph Projects, London, UK

Soirée, Fiery Friary, London, UK

2016

What's up 2.0, curated by Lawrence van Hagen, 94 Portland Place, London, UK

Glorious Abandon, Dynamite Projects, Redhill, Surrey, UK (curator)

What we all lack, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

2015

Confuses Paroles, Le Cabinet Dentaire, Paris, FR

FIRE SALE, Dynamite Projects, Redhill, Surrey, UK (curator)

Figure this Out, Assembly House Studios, Armley, Leeds, UK

Figure this Out, Passage Choiseul, Paris, FR

Shaun McDowell, Mohammed Qasim Asfaq - New and Recent Works, Art Dubai with Hannah Barry Gallery, Dubai, AE

2014

Degree of Darkness, Rook & Raven Gallery, London, UK

Save yourself!, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK (curator)

En-trée, Middlemarch, Brussels, BE

KALEIDOSCOPE, House of Culture, Šmartno, Slovenia, SI

2013

PeckhamNewYorkParis, Galerie 104 Kleber, Paris, FR (co-curator)

PeckhamNewYorkParis, Shoot the Lobster, New York, US (co-curator)

PeckhamNewYorkParis, 88 Friary Road, Peckham, London, UK (co-curator)

Paint As You Like and Die Happy!, Fokidos, Athens, GR

2011

Nothing Fixed, Marcelle Josephs Projects, London, UK (curator)

The Tangled Grove, Brickhouse at Nutbrook Studios, London, UK

2009

The Discerning Eye, The Mall Galleries, London, UK

To Paint is to Love Again, Hannah Barry Gallery, London, UK

The Peckham Pavilion, 53rd La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, IT

2008

Bold Tendencies II, London, UK

2007

Bold Tendencies I, Bold Tendencies, London, UK

Colour & Line, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK

Small Paintings & Sculpture, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Landscape, Film & Photography, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Experiments with Figuration, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London UK
Building and Breaking: Drawing in Pencil, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
International Times, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
Monumental Painting, Sculpture and Film, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK

2006

10 Rooms & a Sculpture Garden, 78 Lyndhurst Way, London, UK
The Gateless Gate, by Untitled Generation, The Sassoon Gallery, London, UK (curator)
Turtle: an anarchic salon by Michael H. Shamberg, Chelsea Space, London, UK
The Spontaneous Academy, Pankof Bank Architects, Architecture Foundation, The Yard, London, UK
Rehearsing/Samuel Beckett, Chelsea Space, London, UK

PUBLICATIONS

Visible, Invisible: Against the Security of the Real (Parasol Unit: London, 2009)
The Discerning Eye (The Mall Galleries: London, 2009)
Optimism: The Art of Our Time (Hannah Barry Gallery: London, 2008)