

# Ezra Johnson

Born in 1975 in Wenatchee, WA

Lives and works in Florida and London

In a practice that merges the still and moving image, Ezra Johnson produces paintings and animation, fostering a synergy between these two media that pushes each beyond its material parameters. In his words, “I use each medium to propel the other in sort of a perpetual motion, creativity machine...In this way a new logic and energy begins to form between the two.” In his mid- to large-scale oil-on-canvas paintings, the logic of time and motion is evident in kinetic brushstrokes and patterns that pull the eye across the picture plane, and in ambiguous vignettes—of crashing waves, for example—that read as stills cut from a narrative sequence. Johnson’s labor-intensive animated films are composed of a myriad of individual, painted frames. Alternately abstract and figurative, they are composed of images continually coming-into-being, animating the process of painting itself.

## EDUCATION

- 2006 MFA, Hunter College, New York, NY
- 2000 BFA, California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, (Upcoming December 2018)
- 2017 Cap'n Crunch, Freight + Volume, New York NY  
Volta NY with Freight+Volume, New York, NY
- 2016 Domestic Seen, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, KS  
Angry Sea, Arts+Leisure, New York, NY  
Ezra Johnson Painted Animations 2006-2016, Young Projects, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Cut Rate Paradise, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, FL
- 2014 It's Under the Thingy, Freight+Volume, New York, NY  
Solo Presentation, Nada Art Fair, New York, NY  
Festival for Contemporary Arts, Pianello Val Tidone, Italy, curated by Paolo Baldacci
- 2012 Five Kinds Of Light, Freight+Volume, New York, NY
- 2011 A Ship to Sing a Song To, New Galerie, Paris, France
- 2009 A Gentleman's Painter Among Bohemians, New Galerie, Paris, France
- 2008 Wrestling The Blob Beast, Dia Center, New York, NY, curated by Lynn Cooke
- 2007 What Birds Remember If They Do Remember, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York, NY  
What Visions Burn, Hammer Projects, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
Kantor / Feuer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis, MN  
Lost To Begin, Galeria Glance, Torino, Italy

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Texas Contemporary International Art Fair with the Mindy Solomon Gallery, Houston, TX
- 2015 Istanbul Biennial- Moving Image, Sept 4-7  
Your Bad Self, Arts+Leisure, New York, NY  
OOF Collective, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA, curated by Jennifer Levonian
- 2014 Of a Feather, Ewing Gallery of Art, Knoxville, TN, curated by T. Michael Martin  
The Florida Prize in Contemporary Art, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL  
Enticing Luminosity, Lesley Heller Workspace, New York, NY, curated by Olive Ayhens
- 2013 Slumping Towards Bethlehem, DNA Gallery at Untitled Art Fair, Miami, FL
- 2012 The Dirty Dozen, Freight+Volume, New York, NY  
Satyrs and Centaurs, Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York, NY  
2011 Artists In Residence Biannual, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN,
- 2011 From Where You Just Arrived, Pepin Moore, Los Angeles, CA  
Wild Beasts, Champion Contemporary Austin, TX  
The Woods are Lovely, Dark, and Deep, Asya Geisberg Gallery, New York, NY  
Paper, Sue Scott Gallery, New York, NY  
Matinee, St. Cecilia's Convent, Brooklyn, NY, curated by Lauren van Haften-Schick
- 2010 Video Art: Replay, Part 2. Every Day Imaginary, ICA, Philadelphia, PA  
Drawing for Projection: New Animated Forms, SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM  
Metallica, Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Patrick Brennan  
Lush Life Chapter Two: Liar, On Stellar Rays Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Franklin Evans  
Lush Life Chapter Three: First Bird (A Few Butterflies), Invisible-Exports Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Franklin Evans  
Fresh From Chelsea, UCF Gallery, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL  
Animated Screen. CPH PIX. Copenhagen. Denmark

- 2007 Mixing It Up, Leubsdorf Gallery, Hunter College, New York, NY  
Distinctive Messengers, House of Campari, New York, NY, curated by Simon Watson and Craig Hensala of Scenic  
Titled/Untitled, Lismore Castle, County Waterford, Ireland
- 2006 Extremes & In Betweens, Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs, Long Island City, NY, curated by Joshua Altman  
AniMotion, F15 Galleri, Oslo, Norway, curated by Elisabeth Byre  
Warhol&....., Kantor/Feuer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 School Days, Tilton Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 Plane Space Gallery, New York, NY  
Salad Days, Artists Space, New York, NY  
Pictionary, Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York, NY  
Happy Endings, King Fisher Projects, Ridgewood, NY
- 2003 All That Was Not Then, Year Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

#### SELECTED REVIEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2016 Ollman, Leah. "Critics Choice: Wonder and Despair, Frame by Frame: The Stirring Animations of Ezra Johnson," LA Times, April 13, 2016  
Thurlow, Erin. "Ezra Johnson: Cut Rate Paradise," Miami Rail, March 2016
- 2015 Maine, Stephen, "January 2015 Exhibiton Reviews," Artnews, January 1, 2015
- 2014 Simmons, William J., "Evoking the Erotics of the Art Object," Hyperallergic, October 27, 2014  
Mulford, Hansen, Orlando Museum of Art "Florida Prize" catalogue essay  
NY Times, NADA Preview, (Color photo)
- 2012 "100 Artists To Watch (#13)," Modern Painter Magazine
- 2011 Cotter, Holland, "Lower East Side Tale, Refracted Nine Times", The New York Times, July 2011  
Esplund, Lance, "The Usual Suspects", The Wall Street Journal, October 2011
- 2007 Danbrot, Shana Nys, "Motion Pictures: Ezra Johnson," Art Review, March 2007  
Willis, Holly, "Signal to Noise: What Visions Burn," LA Weekly, February 7, 2007  
Tumlrir, Jan, "Ezra Johnson: About the Exhibition," Hammer Projects exhibition brochure, UCLA Hammer Museum  
"Visual Arts: Animation - Ezra Johnson," Flavorpill, Issue #343, January 3, 2007
- 2006 "Ezra Johnson at Nicole Klagsbrun," The New Yorker, December 20, 2006  
"On the Town: Video," The New York Sun, December 19, 2006

#### RESIDENCIES

- 2010-11 UT Knoxville, Artist in Residence Teaching Fellowship
- 2008-09 Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation, Residency, Brooklyn, NY
- 2006-07 Fine Arts Work Center Residency, Provincetown, MA