



Gavin Rain

(, 23.03.1971 -)

Penelope

Signed and dated lower right
Acrylic on canvas
120 x 120 cm / 47.2 x 47.2 inch

BIOGRAPHY

(Gavin Rain)



Gavin Rain was born in Cape Town on 23 March 1971. He studied Art and Neuropsychology at the University of Cape Town in the 80's and 90's. Rain has been painting his whole life, but started with pointillism around 2003/2004. He is influenced by Seurat, Russian avant garde art of the 1900's and many architects. Earlier in his life, he planned to study architecture, to try and combine his two interests: art and mathematics.

Artworks and technique

Up close, Rain's paintings consist of small concentric dots painted in different colors of acrylic paint. From a distance your eye puts these colors together into one. The further the viewer steps back, the more clear the portrait becomes.

He starts his paintings by making a sketch of the portrait he wants to paint. To decide the place of the dots on the canvas, he either uses a grid, made of strings, or projection. The grid takes about ten hours to make, but is more accurate than using projection, so Rain still uses both techniques. Then he picks the colors for the final dots. He starts by deciding the final color that he wants a dot to be and starts working backwards. Rain has a list of 14,000 different dots that he has made. Out of this list, he picks the combination that creates the color he wants.

Another important part of the technique is changing each dot size. The white canvas Rain uses as a background means that the smaller the dot, the more white background around it. So the bigger the dots, the darker an area gets and the smaller the dots, the lighter the area becomes. This, combined with the distant final color each dot makes is how the image is created. However, the colors of separate dots will merge together into a new color as well. So, it's not just each dot but also a combination of dots that makes the color.

Message

Rain's objective is to broaden people's visual and cognitive horizons by showing them the fantastic and impossible. By combining his origins, his studies, aptitudes and personal talent, Rain has invented an art that is both unique and participative so that all who look at one of his paintings can perceive

the convergence of two opposing pictorial styles: the abstractness of the multitude of colorful concentric circles that thicken into dense and imperfect dots in relief, and the figurative aspect of the image that is defined by the sum of these same dots as the viewer takes a few steps back. It is precisely in this backing-off that the artist's intended message lies: in order to acquire awareness of something that is concealed yet right in front of your eyes, or hidden in plain sight, you must distance yourself by moving backwards. His art is a clear invitation to 'back off', to create some distance in life as well, because as Gestalt psychology sustains, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We must view the big picture, the whole, without worrying about isolated events or individual points of view.

LITERATURE

2015 Gavin Rain, Catalogue 2015, On demand Editions, Italy 2015.
2013 Francesco Elisei & Fabio Anselmi eds., SUPERNATURAL, Pavilion of People's Republic of Bangladesh, 55th Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte La Biennale di Venezia. Turin 2013, p. 92 - 101.

EXHIBITIONS

2018 - Art New York, USA
2018 - Art Palm Beach, USA
2017 - Art Miami, USA
2017 - PAN Amsterdam, the Netherlands
2017 Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA
2017 Time Suspended II, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2017 Art New York, New York City, USA
2017 County Day School, Miami, USA
2017 Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico
2017 Solo Show, Smith-Davidson Gallery, Amsterdam
2017 Art Palm Beach, Smith-Davidson Gallery
2017 TEFAF, Smith-Davidson Gallery, Maastricht
2017 Art New York Smith-Davidson Gallery, New York
2016 Contemporary Istanbul, Villa del Arte Galleries, Istanbul
2016 Art Miami, Smith-Davidson Gallery, Miami
2016 Solo Show, Bugno Art Gallery, Venice, December
2016 Summer Loving, Smith-Davidson Gallery, Amsterdam
2016 Art Miami, Miami, USA
2016 Mix and Match Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2016 Art New York, New York, USA
2016 TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
2016 The Armory Show , Smith-Davidson Gallery, New York
2016 Art New York, Smith Davidson Gallery, New York
2016 TEFAF, Smith Davidson Gallery, Maastricht
2015 Art Miami, Smith-Davidson Gallery, Miami
2015 Context Miami, Galeria Alfredo Ginocchio, Miami
2015 Arte Padova, Bugno Art Gallery, Padova
2015 Cape Town ArtFair with WorldArt Gallery, Cape Town
2015 Cerruti Arte, Genova
2015 Art Miami, Miami, USA
2015 PAN Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2015 Global Art Exhibition, SmithDavidson Gallery Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2015 TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
2015 The Armory Show, New York City, USA
2014 Art Miami, Miami, USA
2014 PAN Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2014 Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco, San Mauro, USA
2014 Solo: 'From a Distance', Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2014 TEFAF Maastricht, The Netherlands
2014 Contini Art UK, London
2014 Cerruti Arte, Genova
2014 Nassau Museum, Long Island New York
2014 WorldArt, Cape Town
2014 From A Distance, Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam
2014 Art Miami with Leslie Smith Gallery

2014 PAN Amsterdam with Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam
2014 Art Silicon Valley with Leslie Smith Gallery, San Francisco
2014 Arte Padova with Per Capita Art Gallery, Padova
2014 TEFAF with Leslie Smith Gallery, Maastricht
2014 Cape Town ArtFair with WorldArt Gallery, Cape Town
2014 Art Los Angeles with Leslie Smith Gallery, Los Angeles
2013 Immagina Arte Reggio Emilia with Per Capita Art Gallery, Reggio Emilia
2013 Cape Town Art Fair with World Art, Cape Town
2013 Arte Padova with Per Capita Art Gallery, Padova
2013 Amsterdam Art Fair with Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam
2013 Miami Art Fair with Leslie Smith Gallery, Miami
2013 Cape Town ArtFair with WorldArt Gallery, Cape Town
2013 Supernaturalism, Bangladesh Pavilion for the Venice Biennale, Venice
2013 Leslie Smith Gallery, Amsterdam
2013 La bellezza salverà il mondo, Cerrutti Arte, Genova
2013 Metamorfofi, Palazzo Firenze
2013 Gavin Rain-Lena, Kyo Art Gallery, Viterbo
2013 Venice Biennale, Italy
2012 Ciao Milan, Milan, Italy
2011 Venice Biennale, Italy
2011 Art Southampton, U.S.A.
2011 Art Chicago, U.S.A.
2011 MiArt, Milan, Italy
2011 ART van der Brugge, Zug, Switzerland
2011 Per Capita, Arezzo, Italy
2011 Costa Rica Pavilion for the Venice Biennale, Venice
2011 ART van der brugge, Zug
2011 Per Capita, Arezzo
2010 With Keith Calder, E-Piphany Fine Art, Cape Town
2010 Angels, Grand Provence, Franschhoek
2010 MiArt Art Now!, Milan, Italy
2010 With Keith Calder, E-Piphany Fine Art, Cape Town, South Africa
2010 Angels, Grand Provence, Franschhoek, South Africa
2009 African Wave exhibition II, Venice, Italy
2009 Solo: WorldArt gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
2009 African Wave exhibition I, Trieste, Italy
2009 Cityscapes, WorldArt gallery, Cape Town
2009 African Wave exhibition II, Venice
2009 African Wave exhibition I, Trieste
2008 African Wave exhibition 0, Treviso 2008 Erotica Exhibition, Kizo Gallery, Kwazulu-Natal
2008 Demonstration: Heritage Festival, Kizo Gallery, Kwazulu-Natal
2008 African Wave exhibition 0, Treviso, Italy
2006 Group exhibition: in the Flesh!, KKNK, South Africa
2006 Group exhibition: in the Flesh!, KKNK