

**JOHNSON
LOWE** GALLERY

MICHAEL DAVID

**b.1957; Reno, Nevada (Lives and works between Brooklyn, New York and
Tivoli, New York)**

764 Miami Circle NE, Suite 210, Atlanta, GA 30324

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MICHAEL DAVID

(b. 1957; Reno, Nevada)

"David may be the most innovative master of immediate surface since the Abstract Expressionists. He has acknowledged his debt to Abstract Expressionism, but he has transformed it. Where the Abstract Expressionist paintings of the forties and fifties seem like modern cave paintings, as their crude, unfocused, often meandering, turbulent painterliness suggests, and as such to resonate prehistory, David seems to turn the cave into a temple. . "

- Donald Kuspit

Abstract painter Michael David is best known for his use of encaustic, a technique that incorporates heated beeswax and pigment, as well as mirrored glass. Considered an inheritor of Abstract Expressionism, David's abstract work primarily centers on the use of a densely layered surface to facilitate a direct and immediate spiritual experience. He often incorporates religious iconography and symbolism, art historical themes such as the nude, and contemporary politics into his paintings, resulting in a critical dialogue between the layered abstraction of the surface and the integrated representational imagery. Alongside his work on canvas, David has developed a body of studio photography that recreates paintings by Caravaggio, Manet, and Mantegna, among others, in works that confront racism, homophobia, and sexism.

In his ongoing body of work, David constructs his abstract paintings using hundreds of pounds of broken mirror. Through this process, he achieves a complex yet seamless synthesis of his oeuvre, spanning the last four decades. By pushing the boundaries between painting and sculpture, David develops complex narratives, as evidenced in his seminal symbol paintings that incorporated icons such as the Cross, the Swastika, and the Five Point Jewish Star, as well as in his more recent masterworks such as *The Inevitable* and *The End of the World As We Know It*.

A Guggenheim Fellow, an American Academy of Arts and Letters Awardee, and a Yaddo and Edward Albee Fellow, Michael David has been exhibiting internationally since 1981, first with the historical Sidney Janis and then with M. Knoedler & Co. Exhibiting widely throughout the United States for forty years, he has been the subject of much historical and curatorial acclaim. His recent solo show "The Mirror Stage" was held at Johnson Lowe Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia in 2022.

David's work is included in many prominent private collections, and permanent public collections include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; the Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; the Houston Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, TX; the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; the Margulies Collection, Miami, FL; and the Edward Albee Foundation, Montauk NY. David was the subject of a one-person exhibition at the Aspen Museum of Art in Aspen, CO.

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JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

EDUCATION

1976-1977 B.F.A., Parsons School of Design, New York, New York
1975-1976 SUNY Fredonia

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 *The Mirror Stage*, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2021 Castle Hill Center for the Arts with Brenda Goodman, Truro, Massachusetts
2018 *Figurative Works by Michael David*, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2011 *New Paintings*, The Chmar Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2010 *New Paintings*, Bentley Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Post Mammalian Tension, Michael David & Scott Browning, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
Michael David: New Encaustic Works, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2009 *Michael David: Chortens*, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
The Greenhouse Project, Studio Swan, Palmetto, Georgia
The Greenhouse Project and New Landscapes, Alan Avery Fine Art, Atlanta, Georgia
2008 *Michael David: Old School*, Mason Murer, Atlanta, Georgia
2007 *Michael David: Painting and Photography*, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2006 *Compassion*, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
Michael David: New Encaustic Painting, Wooster Projects, New York, New York
Chortens and Golems: New Encaustic Paintings, Wooster, New York, New York
2004 *Michael David: New Paintings*, Bentley Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
2002 *Michael David: New Paintings*, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2001 *Michael David*, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
2000 *New Encaustic Paintings*, Knoedler and Company, New York, New York
1999 *Michael David*, The Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
Michael David: New Encaustic Paintings, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
1998 *Michael David: Cruciforms*, Meredith Long and Company, Houston, Texas
Michael David: New Work, Dorothy Blau, Bay Harbor, Florida
1997 *Michael David*, Bentley Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
Michael David: Insects and Symbols 1994-1997, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Michael David & Scott Browning, Post Mammalian Tension, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
1995 *Michael David*, Aspen Art Museum, Aspen, Colorado
The Poured Image, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
1994 *Paintings and Works on Paper*, Meredith Long and Company, Houston, Texas
Paintings, Margulies Taplin Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
1993 *The Wolfen Series*, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Michael David, Irving Galleries, Palm Beach, Florida
1992 *Michael David*, Margulies Taplin Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
Painted Collage, Knoedler and Company, New York, New York
1991 *Paintings on Paper*, Meredith Long and Company, Houston, Texas
The Georgia Series, Solo Gallery, New York, New York
New Paintings: The Georgia Series, Knoedler and Company, New York
1990 *Six Paintings*, Meredith Long Gallery, Houston, Texas
Works on Paper, Knoedler and Company, New York, New York
1989 *New Work*, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
1988 *New Work*, Meredith Long and Company, Houston, Texas

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JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

- Michael David: Golem and Other Prints*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
Invisible Cities, Compass Rose Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1987 *Michael David: New Paintings*, The Greenberg Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri
Michael David: Paintings and Drawings, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Michael David: Recent Works, Knoedler Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 1986 *Michael David: Recent Painting*, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
- 1984 *Michael David: New Paintings*, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Michael David: Paintings, Dart Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1983 *Michael David*, Hamilton Gallery, New York, New York
- 1982 *Michael David*, Hamilton Gallery, New York, New York
- 1981 *Michael David, New Paintings: Evolutions of the Symbol*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Radiate*, Garvey | Simon, New York, New York
- 2021 *Selections from NYFA - Courtesy of the Martin Z. Margulies Foundation*, New York, New York
- 2020 *Annual Group Exhibition*, Bentley Gallery, Pheonix, Arizona
Hampton's Virtual Art Fair, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
Bill Lowe Gallery Presents: Masterworks from the Gallery Collection, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2019 *Bold Moves: Black and White Works*, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2018 *Out of 145 Degrees Fahrenheit*, Bentley Gallery, Pheonix, Arizona
- 2016 *The Golem*, The Jewish Museum of Berlin, Berlin, Germany
In a Post-World: Post-Punk Art Now, The Invisible Dog Art Center, Brooklyn, New York
- 2014 *Gallery Artists*, Bentley Gallery, Pheonix, Arizona
- 2011 *Post Mammalian Tension: Michael David & Scott Browning*, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
New Paintings, The Bentley Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
New Paintings, Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
New Paintings, The Chmar Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- 2006 *Unspoken Connections*, The Lowe Gallery, Santa Monica, California
- 2004 Bill Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2002 *Unexpected Selections from the Martin Z. Margulies Collection: Art from 1985 to the present*, The Art Museum at Florida International University, Miami, Florida
- 1999 *Waxing Poetic: Encaustic Art in America*, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey
Forty Years of American Drawings, Raab Galerie, Berlin, Germany
Germany Summertime, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
- 1997 *Michael David and James Hyde*, Margulies Taplin Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida
Contemporary Masterworks, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Drawing the Lines: New York City Subways, Michael Ingbar Gallery of Industrial Art, New York, New York
- 1996 *Different Sides: Drawings/Photographs/Prints/Paintings/Sculpture*, Knoedler and Company, New York, New York
- 1994 *Summer Group Exhibition 1994*, Knoedler and Company, New York, New York
Michael David: Paintings / Nicholas Pearson: Sculpture, Margulies Taplin Gallery, Boca Raton, Florida
- 1992 *Group Exhibition*, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
- 1991 *Group Exhibition*, Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Working with Wax: Ten Contemporary Artists, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York, New York
- 1990 *Heland Wetterling Gallery Shows Knoedler Gallery Artists*, Wetterling Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden
Works on Paper, The Marcus Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1989 *Projects and Portfolios: the 25th Print National*, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York
Important Works on Paper, Meredith Long and Company, Houston, Texas

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- New Editions*, Pace Prints, New York, New York
- 1988 *Golem! Danger, Deliverance, and Art*, The Jewish Museum, New York, New York
Invitational, New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, Connecticut
Seventeen Years at the Barn: Highlights of the Edward F. Albee Foundation, Rosa Esman Gallery, New York, New York
- 1987 *Monotypes*, Pace Editions, New York, New York
Working in Brooklyn / Painting, The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York
Art Against AIDS, Benefit exhibition and art sale held throughout New York for the benefit of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, participating gallery Knoedler & Company, New York, New York
Jewish Themes: Contemporary American Artists, Spertus, Chicago, Illinois
- 1986 *First Impressions: Recent Monotypes by 15 Artists*, Allan Frumkin Gallery, New York, New York
Saints and Sinners: Contemporary Responses to Religion, De Cordova Museum, Lincoln, Massachusetts
Jewish Themes: Contemporary American Artists, The Jewish Museum, New York, New York
Public and Private American Prints Today, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York (traveled to Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota)
- 1985 *A Decade of Visual Arts at Princeton: 1975-1985*, The Art Museum, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey
With an Eye to Nature, Jeffrey Hoffeld and Company, New York, New York
- 1984 *Off the Landscape*, Grand Central Galleries, New York, New York
Cunningham Dance Foundation Benefit, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, New York
Invitational Painting Exhibition, Part I: Twelve Abstract Painters, Seige Contemporary, New York, New York
Small Paintings, Jeffrey Hoffeld Gallery, New York, New York
- 1983 *Calaway*, David, Nelson, Hamilton Gallery, New York, New York
- 1982 *Sounds and Visions*, Rockland Center for the Arts, West Nyack, New York
Group Show, Hamilton Gallery, New York, New York
The Crucifix Show, Barbara Gladstone Gallery, New York, New York
Elaine de Kooning's Inadvertent Collection, Elaine Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, New York
Work by Newly Elected Members and Recipients of Honors and Awards, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, New York
Paintings and Sculptures by Candidates for Art Awards, American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, New York
- 1981 *New Visions*, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut
New Directions - Contemporary American Art from the Commodities Corporate Collection, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, New York
- 1980 *Bobs and New York City Volunteers*, Municipal Parking Garage, New York, New York
Seven Young Americans, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York, New York
- 1979 *Story Mann's Possum Head - In a Pictorial Framework*, The New Museum, New York, New York
- 1978 *Black and White on Paper*, The Nobe Gallery, New York, New York
- 1977 *Six New Painters*, The SoHo Center for the Visual Arts, New York, New York
Sixth Annual Contemporary Reflections, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut

SELECTED PERMANENT PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Best & Co, Richmond, Virginia
Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, New York
Commodities Corporation, Princeton, New Jersey
Elaine Dannheiser Foundation, New York, New York
DeCordova and Dana Museum and Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts
Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado

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JOHNSON LOWE GALLERY

Edward Albee Foundation, New York, New York
Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Houston Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, Texas
ITT Collection, New York, New York
Jewish Museum, New York, New York
List Art Center, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California
Margulies Collection in Miami, Miami, Florida
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York
Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
Neuberger Museum, State University of New York, Purchase, New York
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York

AWARDS

1981-1984 The Edward Albee Foundation Fellowship, Montauk, New York
1983 The Guggenheim Fellowship
1983 The National Endowment for the Arts
Yado Fellowship
1982 The American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, Art Award, New York, New York
The Meet the Composer Grant, New York, New York
Guest Professor, Advanced Painting, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Monographs

Exhibition catalogue. Michael David Evolution of the Symbol (April 9-May 2), published by Sidney Janis Gallery (1981).
Exhibition Catalogue with an essay by Emily Bilski, published by Knoedler Gallery and Company.
Exhibition Catalogue with an essay by Lowery Sims, published by Meredith Long Gallery.
A Conversation between Michael David and Lowery Sims, Meredith Long Gallery (February 1, 1995).
Exhibition Catalogue. Requiem for a Gangster, with an essay by Peter Frank, published by Bill Lowe Gallery. Exhibition
Catalogue. Michael David: New Encaustic Paintings, with an essay by Gail Stavitsky, published by Knoedler & Company and Bentley Gallery, 1999-2000.

Publications

Exhibition Catalogue, the Aspen Museum, 1995.
Exhibition Catalogue. Golem, Jewish Museum, 1984.
Exhibition Catalogue. Golem, Jewish Museum, 2016.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Ackley, Clifford S, "Michael David," The Print Collector's Newsletter (September - October 1987): 137.
Bilski, Emily D., "Michael David: From Doppelgänger toward Entelechy," (March 6, 1990).
Bottino, Carroll Ann, "DeCordova Takes a Look at the 'Saints and Sinners,'" Lincoln Journal, (December 4, 1986): 8.

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- Boyce, David B., "Michael David: New Abstraction and the Transcendent Metaphor," *Arts Magazine* (October 1983): 62-65.
- Brenson, Michael, "Critics' Choices, Art," *The Guide*, *The New York Times* (April 21, 1985): G2.
- "Bringing Fresh Approaches To Age-Old Jewish Themes," *The New York Times* (August 3, 1986): H27, 32.
- Cullum, Jerry, "A Desperate and Honest Search: Some Notes on New Works by Michael David," *Atlanta Journal Constitution Newspaper*, December 1, 2006
- Damsker, Matt, "1988 Invitational show at New Britain Museum," *The Hartford Courant*, (March 27, 1988).
- David, Michael, "Art of Hot Wax and Dogs," *The Aspen Times* (June 10, 11, 1995): 1B, 13B.
- Derrickson, Howard, "Abstract show at Greenberg Triumph of Metaphor and Mystery," *West End Word* (October 1, 1987): 20.
- Fraile, Stephen, "...," *The Print Collector's Newsletter XVI*, no. 3 (July 1985).
- Peter Frank, "Michael David: Faith in Painting," (December 1, 2006).
- Gomez, Edward M., "Improvised Images in Molten Wax, as Fluid as Jazz," *The New York Times* (May 16, 1999)
- Gongard, Willi, "David at Janis," *Art Aktuell*, April 1981.
- Haggerty, Gerard, "Michael David's New Paintings: The Georgia Series," *Cover Arts Magazine* (Summer 1991): 8.
- Hanson, Bernard, "New Britain Museum's 1988 Invitational Exhibit," *The Middletown Press*, (May 5, 1988).
- Harris, Susan, "Michael David," *Arts Magazine* (December 1982): 46.
- Henry, Garrett, "Michael David at Hamilton," *Art in America* (January 1984): 124.
- J, H., "Sieben Amerikaner der Gegenwart," *Kunst* (April 18, 1980).
- Jessup, Sally, "Seven Young Americans," *Art/World* (April 19/May 17, 1980).
- Koch, Liz, "Not Just a Bunch of Brooklyn Painters," *The Phoenix*, (June 25, 1987): 13 – 14.
- Kramer, Hilton, "Seven Young Americans," *The New York Times* (April 18, 1980).
- Kuspit, Donald, "Michael David: Knoedler and Company," *ArtForum* (January 2000).
- Kuspit, Donald, "Michael David's Burgeoning Populations" essay for *Low Catalogue* and for *Nodler* (December 6, 2002).
- Kuspit, Donald, "Immediacy Redivivus: Michael David's Paintings," *Catalog essay*, published by *Knoedler and Company* (December 6, 2006).
- Larson, Kay and Rickey, Carrie, "Art: Seven Young Americans," *The Village Voice* (April 28, 1980).
- Mahoney, Robert, "Sacred Iconoclasm: Exercising Painting's Ancient Demons," *Cover Arts Magazine* (September 1993): 13.
- Moorman, Margaret, "An Eclectic Brooklyn Show," *New York Newsday* (August 7, 1987).
- Morgan, Robert, "Abstract Pictorialism," publication unknown.
- Nicholson, Stuart, "The Poured Image," *Cover Arts Magazine* (March 1995): 24-25.
- O'Neil, Gail, "Artist draws from punk rock and shattered glass for works at Lowe Gallery," *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* (November 17, 2022).
- Potter, Thomas F., "Contemporary Art Show will Appeal to All Art Lovers," *Meriden Record*, (March 19, 1988).
- Ruzicka, Joseph, "Michael and the Wolfen," *Upper Eastside Resident* (September 23 – 30, 1993).
- Ruzicka, Joseph, "Michael David at Knoedler" (January 1, 1994).
- Schwartzman, Allan, "Corporate Culture: The Yippie-Yuppie Artist (Jeff Koons)," *Manhattan, Inc.* (December 1987): 137 – 143.
- Sherman, Mary, "David's abstract art entices, grips the viewer," *Chicago Sunday Times* (April 8, 1988): 82.
- Silverthorne, Jeanne, "Michael David," *ArtForum* (January 1984): 73.
- Sjostrom, Jan, "David's Intense Art Examines the Inner Man," *Palm Beach Daily News* (March 7, 1993): B1.
- Southworth, Linda, "Michael and the Wolfen," *Upper Eastside Resident* (September 23 – 30, 1993).
- Stapen, Nancy, "DeCordova Show Has Mass Appeal," *The Boston Herald*, (November 21, 1986): W6.
- Stavitsky, Gail "Waxing Poetic: Encaustic Art in America during the Twentieth Century," (1999).
- Tallman, Susan, "Michael David at Knoedler," *Art in America* (October 1991): 156.
- "The Mirror Stage Exhibition reflects human experience from broken to wholeness," Michael David interviewed by Lois Reitz, *WABE Radio* (January 4, 2023).
- Upshaw, Reagan, "Michael David at Knoedler," *Art in America* (July 1997): 95-95.
- Wallach, Amei, "The Golem Legend in Many Guises," (review: *The Jewish Museum*), *Newsday* (January 6, 1989): 15.

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Zimmer, William, "Seven Young Americans," The SoHo News (April 16, 1980): 63.

—"Michael David," The SoHo News (April 22, 1981): 64.

—"Wax as a Medium and a Message," The New York Times (June 6, 1999).

VIDEOS

2022 Johnson Lowe Gallery. "Michael David. The Mirror Stage. Installation," (2022).

Johnson Lowe Gallery. "Michael David. The Mirror Stage. Studio," (2022).

"Michael David. 2022 Encaustic Conference Keynote Address." Produced by Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill (2022).

2009 Alan Avery Art Company. Michael David is the director of "The Greenhouse Project." (September 24, 2009).

PROJECTS IN ART

2020-current Founder and director of Yellow Chair Salon

2016-current Director & Curator of M. David & Co. Gallery, Brooklyn, New York

2013-2016 Artistic director and curator of Life on Mars Gallery in Bushwick, Brooklyn, New York

2010 Founder and director of Fine Arts Workshop, Atlanta, Georgia

2002 The Greenhouse Project, Atlanta, Georgia

MUSIC / PERFORMANCE

1976-1977 Founder and bassist of The Plasmatics, punk band with Roy Stuart and Richie Stotts

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