



Cameron Wilson Ritcher

Born 1995 Lives and works in Richard, Virginia

Artist Statement

"The aesthetic of my work is born of the industrial and household materials I am using, and the playful and often nonsensical manner in which I have approached them. My works are constructions of individual pieces of materials that have been attached together. This process allows me to synthesize disparate ideas to create works that are simultaneously spontaneous, yet entirely within my control.

Some of the marks made are purely non-objective: derived only from ambiguous instinct. Yet some of the marks become more illustrative: direct descriptions of things I've seen. Either way, what's most important to me is the character of the marks, not what they are depicting. Sometimes realism is a means to that end.

I know a painting is finished when it feels balanced and is not dominated by a single element. Just like the rest of my process, this is a meditative decision and is based entirely on intuition. I ask questions and present new possibilities, leaving the viewer with a trace of familiarity, but less information than is needed for a concrete conclusion.

Of course, my work does not exist within a vacuum and it is only responsible of me to think of what impact my work may have on the world. I know, at my core, that I was designed for a very specific

job: making paintings, simply for the sake of making paintings. I feel an intense and spiritual excitement and curiosity while making my work. Maybe it is a glimpse of heaven. My hope is that the viewer would feel at least a fraction of that."

Biography

At the age of ten, Cameron was an established paleontologist, travelling to Utah to excavate dinosaur bones and returning to his 5th grade classroom to present the findings of his research. In middle and high school, he chased dreams of playing the trumpet and racing mountain bikes at a professional level. Late in high school, he realized that visual art was (and is) the unlikely common denominator of all other endeavors.

Cameron began receiving commissions and gaining acceptance into gallery shows his freshman year of college. He graduated from James Madison University in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Studio Art as well as a Pre-K-12 Visual Arts Teaching Licensure and won the school's award for a graduating senior with a concentration in painting. Since graduation, he has won numerous awards in art fairs and juried shows. His works are included in the collections of The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, The JMU School of Integrated Science and Technology, Della Watkins, Director of the Columbia Museum of Art, and Braden Holtby, Goalie of the Washington Capitals.

Education

2013-17

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

Bachelor of Science Degree in Studio Art, Pre K-12 Visual Arts Teaching Licensure, Senior Achievement Award - Painting Concentration Area

Solo Exhibitions

2019

Immediate Gratification, BOJUart, Virginia Beach, VA

2018

Calvin Ball, Spitzer Art Center, Harrisonburg, VA

2017

Stanley Hudson, 292 N. Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

2016

Sense of Humor, 292 N. Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

2015

Everything is a Cat, Artworks, Harrisonburg, VA

2014

Gluttony, Artworks, Harrisonburg, VA

Group Exhibitions and Art Fairs

2020

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER, Glave Kocen Gallery, Richmond, VA

Organized Abstraction, TEW Galleries, Atlanta, GA

2019

Art Inspired, Gallery at 17, Richmond, VA

Current Art Fair, Richmond, VA

Hung Juried, Glave Kocen, Richmond, VA

2018

The Other Art Fair, Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL

All-Media Juried Show, Crossroads Art Center, Richmond, VA

**VA MOCA Boardwalk Art Show*, VA Beach, VA

Companion Planting, Arts Council of the Valley, Harrisonburg, VA

2017

**Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival*, Norfolk, VA

National Juried Show at The Bower Center for the Arts, Bedford, VA

LOCAL at The Shenandoah Valley Art Center, Waynesboro, VA

Welcome, 292 N. Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

6x6x30, Spitzer Art Center, Harrisonburg, VA

Incarnation, 292 N. Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

2016

**RVAS Annual Juried Show*, Lynchburg, VA

Hill Center Galleries Regional Juried Exhibition, Washington, DC

**Edna Curry/John Bower Exhibition*, Bower Center for the Arts, Bedford, VA

6x6x30, Spitzer Art Center, Harrisonburg, VA

Larkin Arts Regional Juried Show, Harrisonburg, VA

Exploring Lent in Black and White, 292 N Gallery, Harrisonburg, VA

**James Madison University Undergraduate Juried Show*, Harrisonburg, VA

Two:Too, Madison Union, Harrisonburg, VA

2015

The Gallery U Invitational, The Alternative Gallery, Allentown, PA

**James Madison University Undergraduate Juried Show*, Harrisonburg, VA

2014

James Madison University Undergraduate Juried Show, Artworks, Harrisonburg, VA

2013

6x6 Juried Show, Larkin Arts, Harrisonburg, VA

P. Buckley Moss Invitational, Waynesboro, VA

*Award Received

Awards/Honors

Award of Excellence – Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival, Winter Park, FL

Thomas A. Felton Jr. Award of Distinction in Fine Art - VA MOCA Boardwalk Art Show, VA Beach, VA

Randy Harris Memorial Award - Stockley Gardens Fall Arts Festival, Norfolk, VA

Honorable Mention - Riverviews Artspace Annual Juried Show, Lynchburg, VA

Award of Merit - Edna Curry/John Bower Exhibition, Bedford, VA

Jay D. Kain Scholarship in Art Education

Marion Park Lewis Foundation Scholarship

JMU Studio Art Achievement Award - Painting Concentration

Juror's Award - James Madison University Undergraduate Juried Show 2015

Juror's Award - James Madison University Undergraduate Juried Show 2016