



LAWRENCE WELLS  
SEE NO EVIL // Paintings 2017

# See No Evil

The problem of evil is one that never goes away because there is evil in man. But we must watch for it, understand it and guard against it, both within and without. But who defines what is evil? When you are free you have to ask yourself, to find this moral compass, to seek your own humanity. You won't find it staring at your phone, staring into eternity beyond the grave. The role of painting in society has been subsumed by other flashier and more interactive media, but it retains its power of touch, as an image made over time, a poetic cipher related to the hand of man who made it. We are not monkeys, but we are little more than that and we continue to confront the mystery of what makes us human. Painting is a part of that mystery. Every day you get up and every day a parrot shits on your face; in the words of Samuel Beckett: "You must go on. I can't go on. I'll go on." Painters, perhaps more than others, face an existential crisis, but I for one am still a true believer, that painting, the process of making it and viewing it, is part of the struggle to push the Earth forward one centimeter, to understand what makes us good, why we are here, what's it all for.

Lawrence Wells (1965) studied painting at Indiana University, and received his MFA from the University of Mississippi (1992). He has lived in Prague for more than 16 years and has exhibited at a number of galleries, both in the Czech Republic and in the USA.

on cover: **Wheel of Fortune**, 2017,  
oil on canvas, 150 x 140 cm

# Lawrence Wells

<http://lwells.tumblr.com/>

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## EDUCATION

Resident – Meetfactory, Prague, Czech Republic - 2007–2008

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS MFA in Painting - 1992

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN BFA in Painting - 1987

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2017 “See No Evil”. Galerie Ve dvoře, Litoměřice, Czech Republic – solo show

2016 “Chains”, Darke Matter Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic - solo show

2016 “Naked Ape”, Rebel Arts Space, Palm Springs, CA - solo show

2015 “Bohemian”, Yalo Studio, Water Valley, MS - solo show

2014 “Ghosts”, Galerie Prokopka, Prague, Czech Republic - solo show

2014 “Konec/The End”, Galerie Kytka, Prague, Czech Republic - solo show

2013 “Kulturní událost/Cultural Event”, Berlinskej model, Prague, Czech Republic - solo show

2013 “Global Locals”, Galerie NTK, Prague, Czech Republic - group show

2013 “Moon Monkey Candle”, Galerie AM180, Prague, Czech Republic - solo show

2012 “Astronauts”. Galerie Ve dvoře, Litoměřice, Czech Republic – solo show

2012 “My Wildlife as an Animal”, Abrazo Interno Gallery, New York, NY– group show

2012 “Ape and Essence”, Berlinskej model, Prague, Czech Republic – solo show

2009 Marathon, Prague, Czech Republic – solo show

2007 Exit Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic – solo show

2004 Alternatiff Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic – solo show

2001 “Fuji Fox Freedom”, Millenium Film, New York, NY – group show

1997 Mermaid Gallery, New Orleans, LA – solo show

1996 Two Painters, Positive Space Gallery, New Orleans, LA – group show

## PUBLICATIONS

Lawrence Wells: Bohemian, Paintings 2011-2014, Yoknapatawpha Press, 2015

<http://www.amazon.com/Bohemian-Lawrence-Wells/dp/0916242781>

Interview: Lawrence Wells Returns to Oxford for Book Signing, Art Exhibition, 2015

<http://hottytoddy.com/2015/04/29/lawrence-wells-returns-to-oxford-for-book-signing-art-exhibition/>

Interview: Enter the Far Off Universe of Lawrence Wells, 2012

<http://hypereal.tumblr.com/post/20984979675/lawrence-wells-enter-the-far-off-universe-of-lawrence-we>



**See No Evil, 2017,**  
oil on canvas, 140 x 150 cm



**Writing, 2017,**  
oil on canvas, 150 x 140 cm



**Parrot, Orb and Sword, 2017**  
oil on linen, 70 x 60 cm



**Two Parrots, 2017**  
oil on linen, 70 x 60 cm



**Parrot and Orb, 2017**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm





**Two Parrots, 2017**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



**Wheel of Fortune, 2017**  
ink on paper, 50 x 50 cm



**Parrot (Head of a Moor), 2017**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



**See No Evil, 2017**  
ink on paper, 50 x 50 cm



**Three Fops, 2016**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



**Skeletons and Computers, 2017**  
oil on canvas, 140 x 150 cm



**The King and his Phone**, 2016  
oil on canvas, 80 x 65 cm



**Three Skeletons, 2017**  
acrylic on paper, 70 x 70 cm





**Skeletons and Computer, 2016**  
acrylic on paper, 70 x 70 cm



**Five Skeletons, 2016**  
acrylic on paper, 70 x 70 cm



**Four Skeletons, 2016**  
acrylic on paper, 70 x 70 cm



**Skeleton and Candlestick, 2016**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



**Fops with Phones, 2016**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



**Four Fops, 2016**  
acrylic on paper, 70 x 70 cm



**Falling Fop, 2016**  
acrylic on paper, 70 x 50 cm



**Little Big Horn, 2016**  
acrylic on paper, 50 x 70 cm



# CROWDS

These works are somewhat different stylistically. I caught a glimpse in a music video of the crowded intersection of Shibuya in Tokyo and was inspired to do large crowd scenes. In 2015 I had done similar scenes from old Czech photographs from the Russian invasion in 1968. These works are more quiet and meditative than the other work but also reflect on the transience and confusion of life. The figures are moving in all directions. Do we really know where we're going?



**Crowd I (Shibuya), 2017**  
ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



**Crowd II (Shibuya), 2017**  
ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



**Crowd (Liberec), 2017**  
ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



**Crowd (August '68), 2017**  
ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



**The Dwarf and the King, 2016**  
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm