

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.

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, Litoměříce, 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, Litoměříce, 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

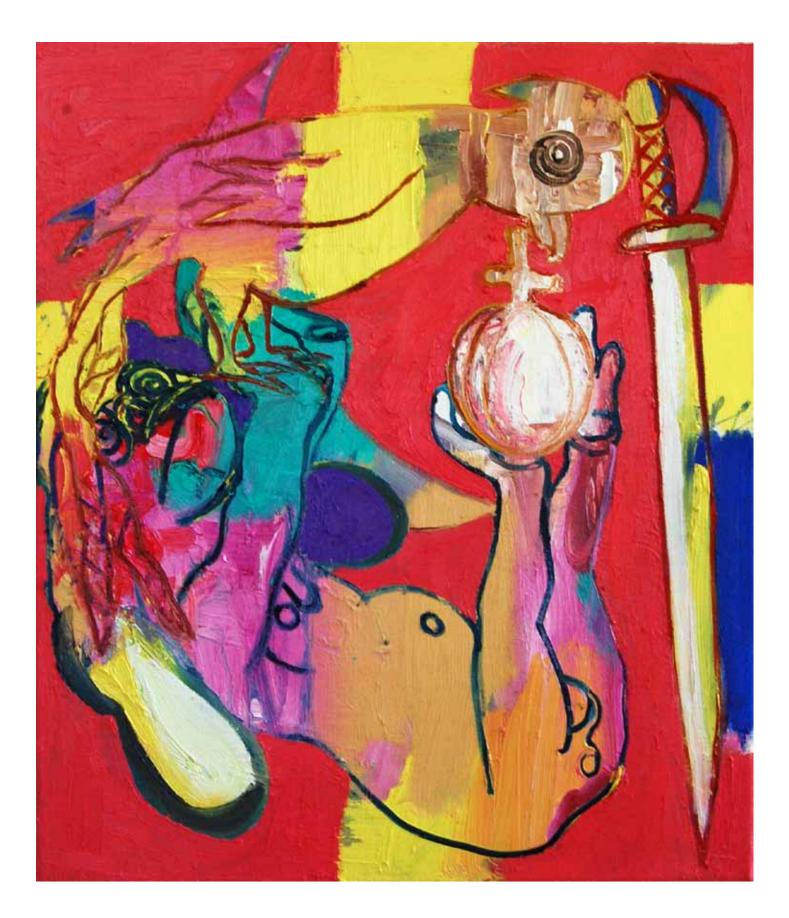
PUBLICATIONS

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

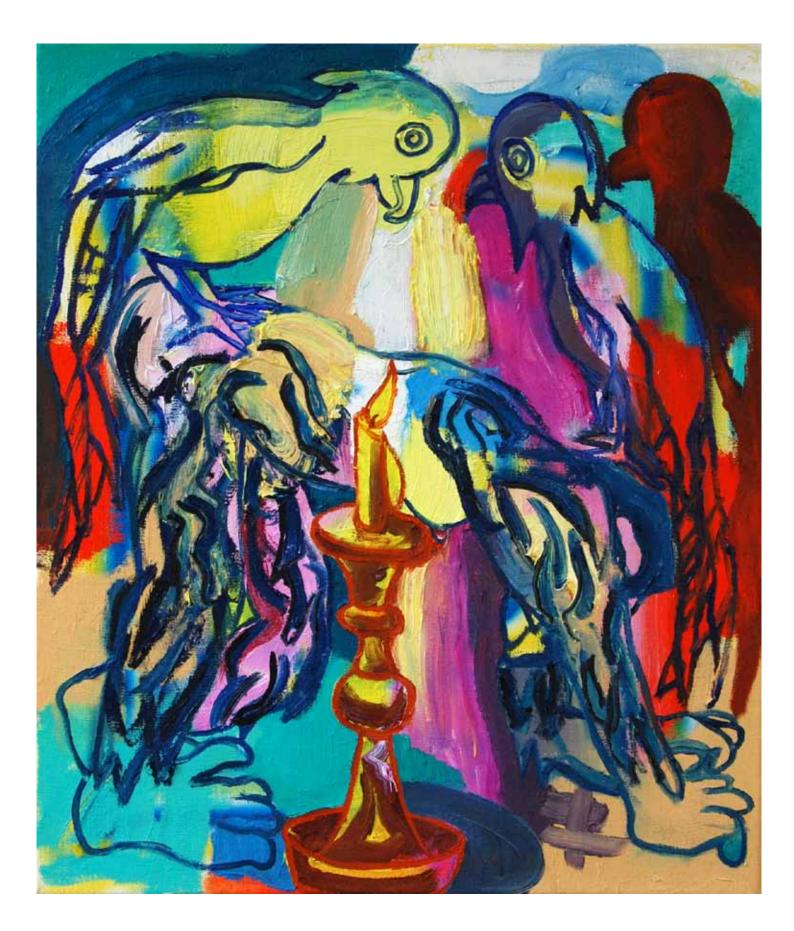


See No Evil, 2017, oil on canvas, 140 x 150 cm





Parrot, Orb ande 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





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





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





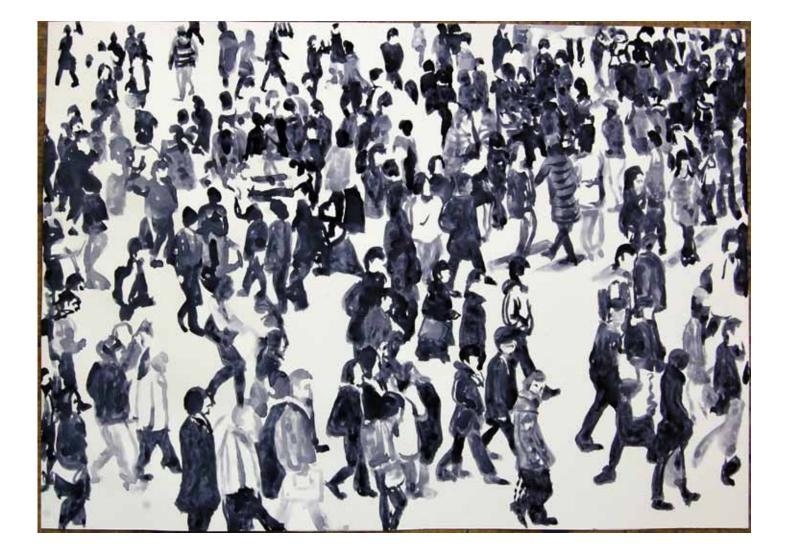
Falling Fop, 2016 acrylic on paper, 70 x 50 cm



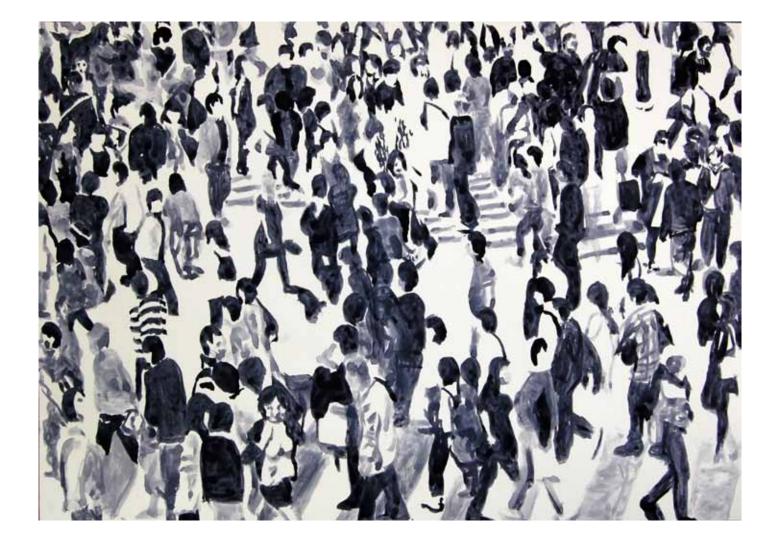
Little Big Horn, 2016 acrylic on paper, 50 x 70 cm

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?



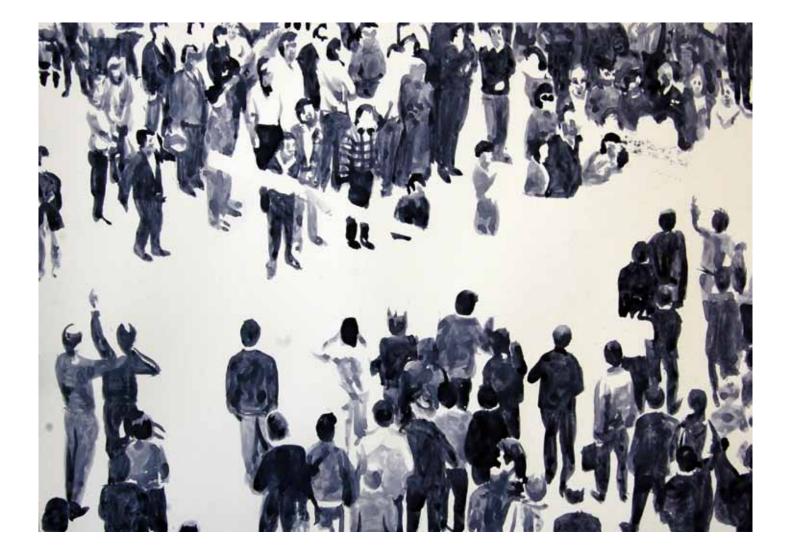
Crowd I (Shibuya), 2017 ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



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