



LAWRENCE WELLS
Paintings 2019

on cover: **Burning Birds**, 2019
oil on canvas, 120 x 100 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

2018 “Konec večírku”, Galerie Na shledanou, Volyně, Czech Republic

2018 “Nahá opice”, Galerie Pragovka, Prague, Czech Republic

2017 “Opice a Muži”, Galerie Hřivnáč, Opava, Czech Republic

2017 “See No Evil”, Galerie Ve dvoře, Litoměřice, Czech Republic

2016 “Chains”, Dark Matter Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic

2016 “Naked Ape”, Rebel Art Space, Palm Springs, CA

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

Interview: Lawrence Wells Konec Večírku, Noviny Na Shledanou, 2018

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

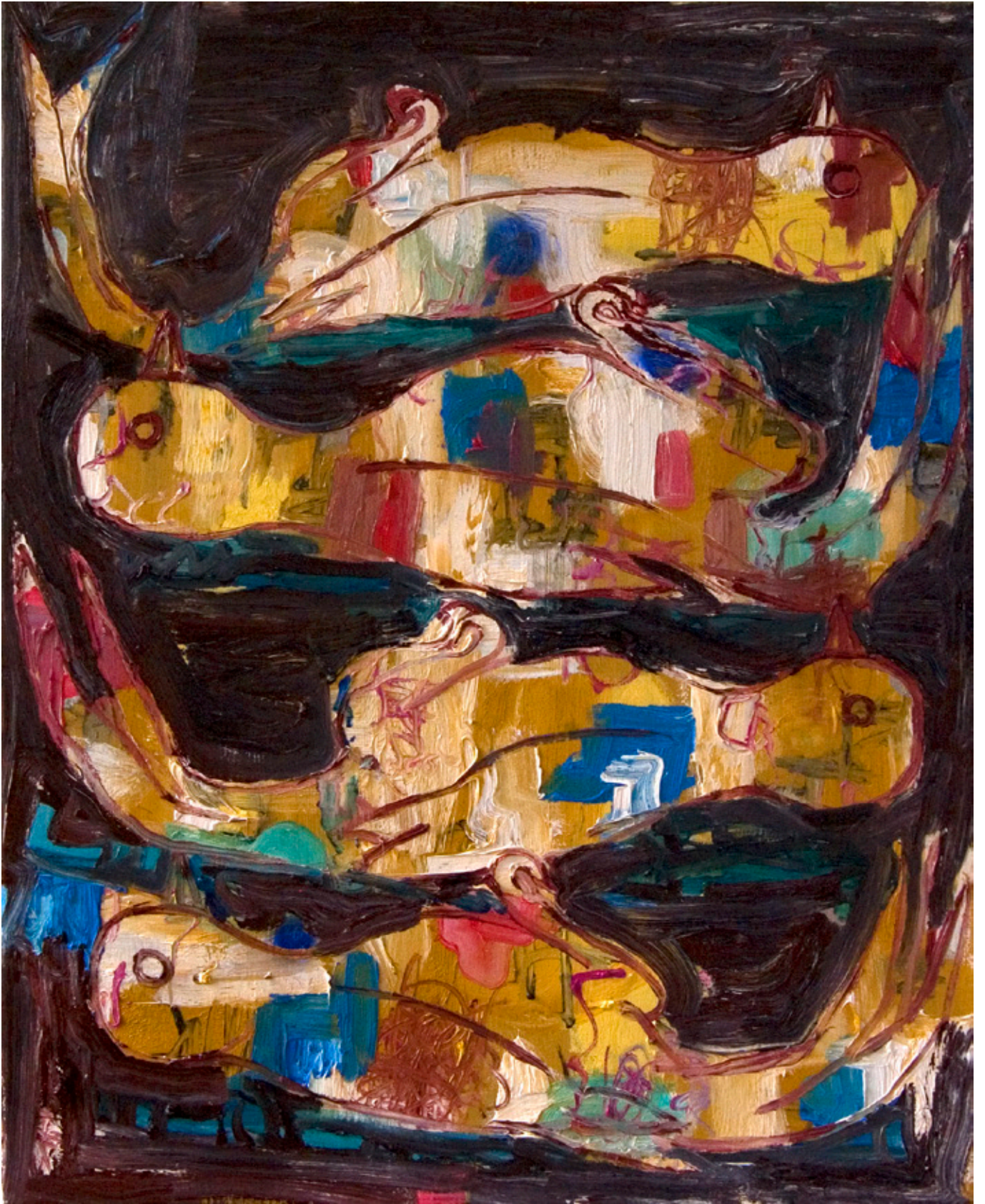
Interview: Enter the Far Off Universe of Lawrence Wells, 2012

Hermit Saints and Burning Birds

My recent work is seeking meaning in a world confronted by extinction. Glyphosate, climate change, Brexit, rising xenophobia, etc .. we live in an increasingly destabilized world. What role does painting play, if any? What is the artist's role in a society on the verge of potential collapse? My artistic practice is generally reactive in that I am responding to the world around me. In a world gone mad, the tendency is to seek shelter. Becoming a hermit, meditating in a cave, is similar to the artist alone in the studio seeking answers to unformed questions. The paintings are questions which imply their own answers. We can make a telephone call to the stars, but no one is answering. As usual, man is left alone with his mistakes and confusion, wondering how to make things which transcend the moment. The artist's way is perilous because it's easy to choose the wrong path. Perhaps the questions I am asking are the wrong ones. That's the risk we all take in our lives. And sadly life is short.

Piles of dead birds. A grim symbol of a possible ecological collapse. And yet the birds are burning, their lifeless eyes are beginning to glow. Like the phoenix, in a trial by fire, they will be reborn. What is art and painting in the face of mass extinction? What is the human experience if all we have made is leading us to die? The birds (in us) are waiting to be reborn and fly. There will be a reincarnation .. this is the promise of Easter/Inanna in the Underworld. So my new work is springing from a spiritual place, reflecting the desperation and hope engendered by the present.

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 18 years and has exhibited at a number of galleries, both in the Czech Republic and in the USA.



Dead Birds, 2019
oil on canvas, 80 x 65 cm



Human Clock, 2019
oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm



Night Games, 2019
oil on canvas, 80 x 65 cm



Brother Moon , 2019
acrylic on paper, 100 x 100 cm



The Annunciation, 2019
oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm



St. Francis and the Birds, 2018
oil on canvas, 150 x 120 cm



Parrots, 2018
oil on canvas, 120 x 80 cm



Der Kaiser, 2019
oil on canvas, 90 x 75 cm



The General, 2019
oil on canvas, 90 x 75 cm



Monkey, Bottle, Light Bulb, 2018
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



Monkey and Crab, 2018
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



Ship and Monkey, 2018
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



Monkey and Ship, 2018
ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



Dead Orangutan, 2017
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



Ape on the Telephone, 2017
ink on paper, 70 x 50 cm



Ghost Ship, 2018
oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm

The Age of Discovery

I'm from the New World and I came to Europe on a plane. But living here on these layers of history makes me realize that the Age of Discovery, or what is sometimes called the Early Modern, is not really that long ago. In Berlin for New Year's Eve 2018, I bought a book on the great galleons and trade vessels at a flea market. For me these ships speak of both a longing for adventure, for the unknown, but also of early globalization and colonialism. As an American, for example, I have come to understand that the slave trade was fundamental in my understanding of the world. Reading Hannah Arendt reveals the violent history that has forged the sense of identity in Middle Europe. We continue to discover things about the past, about the future, about ourselves. The ships are also a symbol of escape, of travel, of finding a way back home. I may never find my home, or rather one day I may discover it was where I was living all along. There is a lot still to discover and I hope we can find a new age of discovery, to travel inside ourselves and learn what it means to be alive in the world. Because for the most part in the technosphere of the Northern Hemisphere, we are asleep. We need to wake up to the wonder of our world before we destroy it. This is our home.



Ship in a Bottle, 2017
oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm



Ship in a Bottle, 2017
ink on paper, 50 x 70 cm



Age of Discovery, 2018
oil on canvas, 85 x 80 cm



Dutch East India Ship, 2018
oil on canvas, 80 x 65 cm



Dark Ship, 2018
acrylic on paper, 120 x 100 cm



Ship and Monkey, 2018
oil on canvas, 120 x 100 cm





Monkeys and Ships, 2018
acrylic on paper, 150 x 200 cm

