

CHRIS GWALTNEY

Balancing between abstraction and figurative, the works of Chris Gwaltney (b. 1953) are evocative, luminous, and lush. He balances color with unexpected washes and scribbles; scraping physically from the surface as he generously slaps paint onto the canvas. Having studied Bay Area figurative painters - such as Richard Diebenkorn, Nathan Oliviera, and David Park - and influenced by the works of Joan Mitchell and Robert Motherwell, Gwaltney begins each work with a conversation in mind. He often starts with a vertical gesture, builds with foundations of layers, and allows the composition to reveal itself as he works.

Gwaltney lives in Laguna Beach and holds a BA and MA from the University of California State Fullerton. He has exhibited throughout the US, including Peter Blake Gallery (Laguna Beach, CA), Seager Gray Gallery and Robert Green Fine Arts (Mill Valley, CA), Cadogan Contemporary (London, England), Anne Loucks Gallery (Glencoe, IL), Julie Nester (Park City, UT), and Tria Gallery (New York, NY). His work has garnered an international following and resides in numerous public and private collections.

"Because his abstractions in progress bristle with visual interest—including an icing of drips and tangles of wild line—as each work moves toward its conclusion, Gwaltney plays the role of an editor, eliminating anything that he feels stands in the way of expressive clarity. "I think that what great poets do is distill feeling," he comments. "I want to do the same thing in painting and present the absolute essence of an emotional state." Because of his rigorous quest for pure feeling, viewers of Gwaltney's work should understand that the essence of his art is this: what is left is what is needed." John Seed, Art Writer



Born 1962, Van Nuys, CA

Lives and works in Laguna Beach, CA

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Newport Beach, CA - Kennedy Contemporary

Mill Valley, CA - Seager Gray Gallery

Park City, UT - Julie Nester Gallery

Glencoe, IL - Anne Loucks Gallery

EDUCATION

1987, California Community Colleges, Instructor Credential

1986, MFA California State University, Fullerton

1984, BA California State University, Fullerton

EXHIBITIONS

2023

Something Searched For, Just Out of Reach, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2022

24 x 24, Group Exhibition at Kennedy Contemporary, CA

ELEMENTAL, Kennedy Contemporary, Newport Beach

2018

And Another Thing, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley

2017

Solo Exhibition, Julie Nester Gallery, Park City, UT

2016

Gwaltney, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA



2015

Solo Exhibition, Cadogan Contemporary, London, England

Solo Exhibition, Julie Nester Gallery, Park City, UT

2014

Time Is..., Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, Tria Gallery, Chelsea, NY

2013

Solo Exhibition, Sue Greenwood Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Tria Gallery, Chelsea, NY

Postcards, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, Sue Greenwood Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Five*, Julie Nester Gallery, Park City UT

2012

Solo Exhibition, Sue Greenwood Fine Art, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Aqua Art Miami with Seager Gray Gallery

Group Exhibition, Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA

Group Exhibition, *Figures in Abstract*, Seager Gray Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2011

Solo Exhibition, Tria Gallery, New York, NY

Solo Exhibition, Julie Nester Gallery, Park City, UT

2010

Shadow and Absence, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

2009

Solo Exhibition, Julie Nester Gallery, Park City, UT

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Figurative*, Peter Blake / LA Louvre, Laguna Beach, CA



2008

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

2007

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, *Figurative*, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

2006

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2005

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

2004

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2003

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, *Summer Show*, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2002

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

2001

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA



2000

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

1999

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

1998

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, *Painters*, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

1997

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, *Gallery Artists*, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

1996

Solo Exhibition, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Renaissance Cafe, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Expressive Figure, Three Painters*, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

1995

More New Work, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Contemporary Figure, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Collaboration, Artist-in-Residence, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA

Group Exhibition, *California Figurative*, Robert Green Gallery, Mill Valley, CA

Group Exhibition, *Recent Figure Paintings*, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA



1994

New Work, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *International Art*, Los Angeles, CA

Group Exhibition, *California Painters*, Concordia University, Irvine, CA

Group Exhibition, *Best of Laguna*, Arts Institute of Southern California, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Irvine Valley College Faculty*, Irvine, CA

1993

Recent Paintings, Five Feet Restaurant, Laguna Beach, CA

New Paintings, Renaissance Cafe, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Currents*, Time/Space Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Faculty Exhibit*, Irvine Valley College, Irvine, CA

1992

Essential Visions, Bistango Gallery, Irvine, CA

1991

Source Material, New Work, Diane Nelson, Laguna Beach, CA

Recent Paintings, Renaissance Cafe, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Faculty Exhibit*, Irvine Valley College, Irvine, CA

Group Exhibition, Diane Nelson Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

1990

Twelve Recent Paintings, Diane Nelson Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Contemporary 4*, Bistango, Irvine, CA



1989

Recent Paintings, Diane Nelson Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Figure Eight, Diane Nelson Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Artists that Teach*, Art Institute of Southern California, Long Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, City College Exchange, Long Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, S.I.T.E. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Faculty Group Exhibition, Art Institute of Southern California, Long Beach, CA

1988

Solo Exhibition, S.I.T.E. Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Solo Exhibition, Diane Nelson Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

More Questions, Fewer Answers, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA

Solo Exhibition, Gallery of Art, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

Group Exhibition, *Furniture as the Artist's Subject*, Century Gallery, Sylmar, CA

Group Exhibition, *Faculty Exhibit*, Irvine Valley College, Irvine CA

Group Exhibition, *Faculty Exhibit*, California State University, Long Beach, CA

1987

Solo Exhibition, Irvine Valley College, Irvine, CA

Group Exhibition, Amos Eno Gallery, New York, NY

Group Exhibition, Spectrum Gallery, San Diego, CA

Group Exhibition, Diane Sassone Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Group Exhibition, *Faculty Show*, Ettinger Gallery, Art Institute of Southern California

1986

Solo Exhibition, Diane Sassone Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA

Solo Exhibition, California State University Fullerton West Gallery, Fullerton, CA

Group Exhibition, Orlando Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

MFA Exchange Show, Claremont College, CA



1984

Group Exhibition, *All California '84*, Laguna Beach Art Museum

REVIEWS & ARTICLES

- Seed, John. *What is Left is What is Needed*. Exhibition essay, 2022. Kennedy Contemporary
- Colburn, Bolton (Former Director Laguna Art Museum, Independent Curator). *Chris Gwaltney World*. Exhibition review, 2015, Seager Gray Gallery
- Marszalek, Norbert. *Interview with Chris Gwaltney*, (July 6, 2009) neotericART.com
- Carasso, Roberta, "Art Waves, Chris Gwaltney at New Peter Blake Gallery" (October 10, 2008) Orange County Register.com
- Walsh, Daniella, "The Art Attack" Riviera Magazine (October 2008) pgs. 50-51
- Walsh, Daniella, "The Art Radar" Riviera Magazine (March 2008) pgs. 84-85
- "Step into Color" Riviera Magazine (March 2007) pgs. 180-181
- Thompson, Sandy, "Chris Gwaltney at Robert Green Fine Arts" Art week (July/ August 2001 Volume 32 Issue 7/8) Cover, page 20
- Thomas, Linda, "A Circle of Orange" pg. 150-151
- Carrasso, Roberta, "Dazzling colors mark Gwaltney exhibit at Blake Gallery," Orange County Register, Laguna News-Post, (November 4, 1999) pg. 24
- Walsh, Daniella, "Chris Gwaltney-Recent Paintings" Orange County Register, Page 3 (Sunday, October 4, 1998) Encore
- Delmas, Cinde, "Rich month for artwork in Marin", Marin Independent Journal (February 1995)
- Mendenhall, Laurie, "Artistry in Teaching Art" Daily Pilot, Weekend (January 27, 1994) Cover
- Bryant, Kathy, "The Art of Living" Los Angeles Times, Design (July 10, 1993) Cover
- Carrasso, Roberta, "Currents", Time/Space Gallery Catalog (December 12, 1992)
- Bell, Joseph, "The Beginning Buyer's Guide to Art" Los Angeles Times (May 1990)
- Bryant, Kathy, "A Passion For Art" Orange County Magazine (September 1990) pg. 76
- Harbrecht, Gene, "Gwaltney isn't sitting still with his chair theme," Orange County Register, (April 6, 1990) pg. 32
- Schlosberg, Suzanne, "Art That Takes a Stand, and a Seat" Los Angeles Times, Calendar, (January 26, 1990) pg. F23a
- Valdespino, Ann, "Paintings, Photos Go From Restful to Arresting," Orange County Register, (March 25, 1988) pg. 48



SELECTED PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Maria Sharapova

Mr. Mrs. Don Beall

Mr. Mrs. Thomas Neilson

Mrs. Barbara Reiff

Mr. Byron Nease

Mr. Brian Conway

Dr. Bradford Cornell

Mr. Jim Williams

Mr. Mrs. Whitney Gantz

Mr. Mrs. Clark Cornell

Mrs. Joan Rehnborg

Mr. Richard Legoza

Mr. Mrs. Ed Halvavjian

Mr. Mrs. Warren Fix

Ms. Lori Hart

Mr. Mrs. Peter Ellesmere-Jones

Mr. Mrs. Leif Hansen

Mr. Mrs. Tom Linden

Dr. Mrs. Steven Weiss

Mr. Mrs. Snyder

Mr. Mrs. Bob McKnight

Ms. Susan Trager

Mr. Mrs. Greg Brakovich

Mr. Mrs. Steve Friedmann

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Rauxa Direct

Irvine Company

Finecon

Forms Engineering Company

McElroy Management

Engle and Murphy Design

Quiksilver

Wallace Computers

Adobe Systems