



SHAWN HUCKINS
THE BIRDS WILL SING

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April 10 - May 8, 2021

GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY 

2716 S. La Cienega Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90034
310-838-3685 | www.gbgl.com

Shawn Huckins: The Birds Will Sing

Shawn Huckins is a tour de force of technical skill and wit - referencing our sometimes rosy view of history and our complicated present in these exquisitely painted canvases. This series, "The Birds Will Sing," takes its title from the sweetly bucolic title of an old Cajun folk song. The song, instead of following the title's lead, turns out to be a murder ballad. This painting series follows in its depiction of what appears at first glance to be simply breathtaking landscapes but which are overlaid with wistfully dark statements about contemporary love.

Huckins' meticulously hand-painted works are sourced from the public domain and museum collections of classic American paintings. These landscapes, in the tradition of the great 19th century masters like Bierstadt and the Hudson River School, are paired with text pulled from social media. These phrases appear in the texting acronyms, digital shorthand, and misspellings of current virtual communication.

The hasty text appears in sharp contrast both in form and content to these landscapes that represent an era when communication (and just about everything else) took time and had to be planned in great detail. The immediacy and speed of contemporary life deeply impacts our human connections - sometimes for the better and sometimes not. Huckins is pointedly asking if the devolution of language in the face of technological advancement weakens our ability to empathize and connect to one another in a meaningful way. Personal lives and loves are now lived publicly in a way that is completely new and yet the heartbreak of love remains a thread connecting past and present.

Tressa Williams
March 2021

Tressa Williams is the director and co-owner of George Billis Gallery Los Angeles.



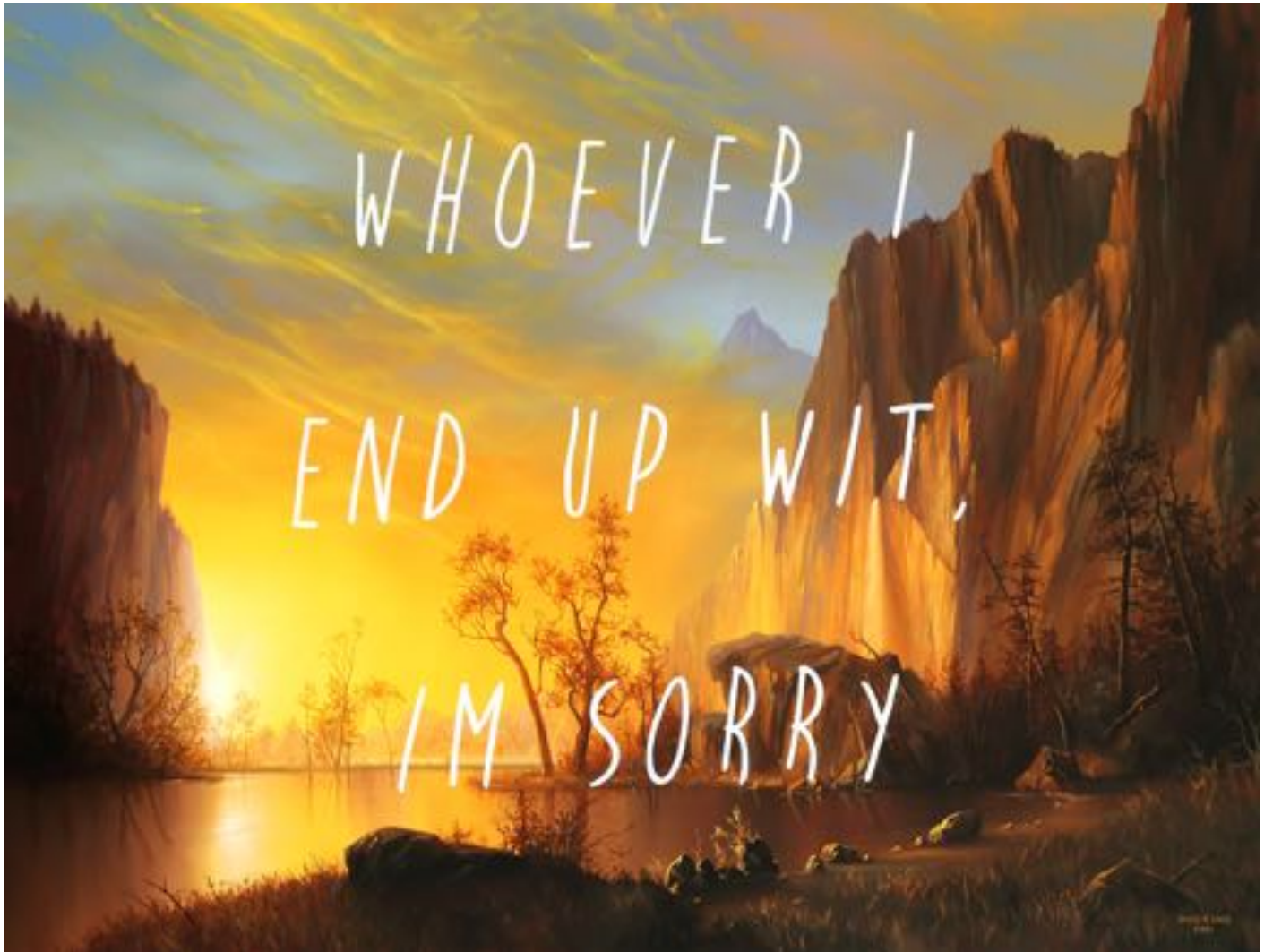


Sierra Nevada: Control Alt Delete Me, 2021

acrylic on canvas

66 x 96 inches





Sunset In The Rockies: Whoever I End Up With, I'm Sorry, 2021

oil + acrylic on canvas

32 x 42 inches



Matterhorn: Only With Us, Love Knows Bounds, 2020

acrylic on canvas

40 x 32 inches

Private Collection







Nightfall Color Study: Touch Me, 2021

oil on canvas

12 x 18 inches

Private Collection



Piz Bernina: Quiet Please. I'm On The Search For My Future Ex, 2021

oil on canvas

22 x 30 inches

Private Collection



Maroon Bells: What The Actual Fuck, 2021

oil on canvas

18 x 28 inches

Private Collection



Wheat Fields: I'm Trying To Say I Love You Without Looking Desperate, 2021

oil on canvas

26 x 32 inches

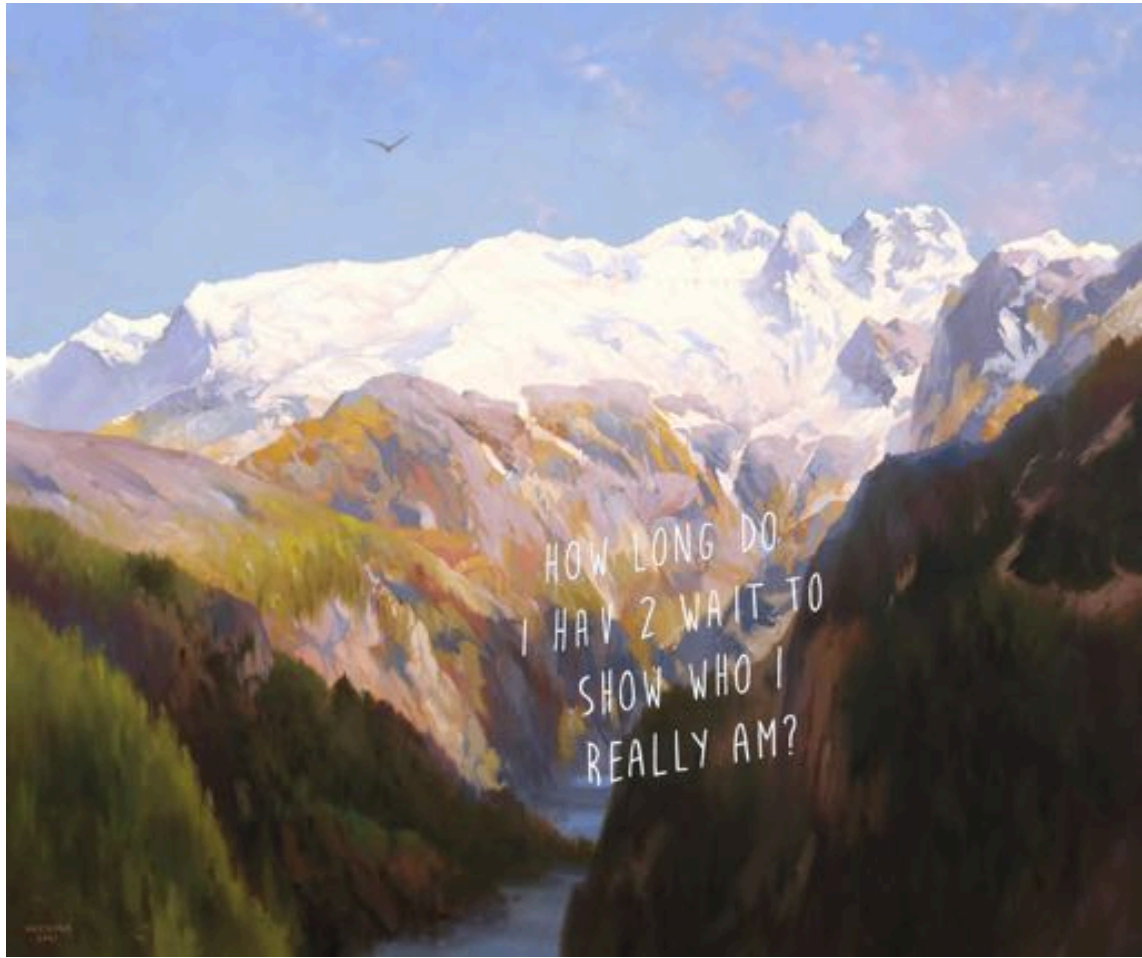




Storm In The Mountains: You Are The Only One For You, 2021

oil + acrylic on canvas

38 x 58 inches



In The Mountains: How Long Do I Have To Wait To Show Who I Really Am?, 2021

oil on canvas

32 x 38 inches



Rising of a Thunderstorm at Sea: Hello?, 2021

oil + acrylic on canvas

16 x 22 inches

Private Collection

SHAWN HUCKINS

Born 1984 New Hampshire

EDUCATION

2006 BA, Studio Arts, Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire, magna cum laude

2004 University of Wollongong, Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia

SOLO SHOWS

2021 The Birds Will Sing, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2020 All You Had To Do Was Call, Modernism, San Francisco, CA

2020 Skeptic, Stephanie Chefas Projects, Portland, OR

2020 Fool's Errand, K Contemporary, Denver, CO

2019 Happy Go Lucky, Galerie Bessières, Chatou, France

2019 Introducing, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2019 Staring At The Sun, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA

2018 Fool's Gold, Modernism, San Francisco, CA

2017 Athenaeum (I Can't Pretend That This Is Poetry), Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA

2017 Somewhere To Nowhere, Goodwin Fine Art, Denver, CO

2016 Everything Is Hilarious And Nothing Is Real, Modernism, San Francisco, CA

2015 The American __tier, Goodwin Fine Art, Denver, CO

2014 Sweet Rhapsody, Art & Soul Gallery, Boulder, CO

2010 Can't Miss Lime, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT

GROUP SHOWS

2021 As Of Now III, K Contemporary, Denver, CO

2020 Historic Memory, Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA curator: Lauren Nye (two-person)

2020 Created In Place, Modernism, San Francisco, CA

2020 #ArtFindsUs Billboard Truck Exhibition, K Contemporary, Denver, CO

2020 Lavender Mist, McNichols Civic Center, Denver, CO curators: Michael Paglia / Mark Brasuell

2020 New Work by Gallery Artists, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA

2019 The Western Sublime, The Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ (Forthcoming, 2019)

2019 Mondo Tondo, Arcadia Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA (Forthcoming, March 2019)

2018 Independent Vision: The Martin Muller Collection, Arkansas Arts Center Museum, Little Rock, AR

2018 Coalesce, Goodwin Fine Art, Denver, CO

2018 Finalists Exhibition, La Pinacothèque, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

2018 Platinum Blend 4, Stephanie Chefas Projects, Portland, OR

2018 Spring Group Show, Cordesa Fine Art, Los Angeles, CA

2018 Resolution, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA

2018 Wet, Quidley & Co, Naples, FL

2017 (Dis)Connected, Kirkland Arts Center, Seattle, WA

2016 ONE, Stephanie Chefas Projects, Portland, OR

2016 Open Stacks, Goodwin Fine Art, Denver, CO

2016 In Good Company, Quidley & Co, Boston, MA

2016 Learning To See Color, Vicki Myhren Gallery, University of Denver, CO

2015 Project P:ear, Stephanie Chefas Projects, Portland, OR

2015 Fresh Brew, Stephanie Chefas Projects, Portland, OR

2015 Summer Group Exhibition, Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco, CA

2015 Platinum Blend, Modern Eden Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2014 PLAY, Galerie COA, Montréal, Canada

2014 New Visions Of The Old West, Patrajdas Contemporary, Ogden, UT

2014 Summer Group Exhibition, Goodwin Fine Art, Denver, CO

2014 A Precious Few, Parlor Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ

2013 Ten Years Drawn, L2Kontemporary, Los Angeles, CA

2013 Summertime, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York, NY
2013 Word Play, Design Matters, Los Angeles, CA
2013 Eye On The Storm, The Housatonic Museum, Bridgeport, CT and The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, Fort Myers, FL
2013 Vol. 3 Group Exhibition, Gildar Gallery, Denver, CO
2012 Flayed Parables, L2Kontemporary, Los Angeles, CA (Two Person Exhibition)
2012 Art On The Edge, Vered Contemporary, East Hampton, NY
2012 Two Person Exhibition, Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, CA
2012 Inaugural Exhibition Vol. 2, Gildar Gallery, Denver, CO
2011 FEED2011 Biennial: Five Artists, 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA
2011 Summer Party, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
2011 Beast, Brooklyn Artists Gym, Brooklyn, NY
2009 29th Faber Birren National Color Exhibition, Stamford Art Association, Stamford, CT
2009 Slide Slam, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT
2008 Out of the Blue, Attleboro Arts Museum, Attleboro, MA
2008 22nd International Show, Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Summit, NJ
2008 Fast Food - A Fast Food Themed Art Show, Frankenart Mart, San Francisco, CA
2008 19th International Juried Exhibition, Viridian Artists Contemporary Art Gallery, New York, NY
2008 Emerging Artists, Limner Gallery, Hudson, NY
2007 Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts Annual Exhibition, Mystic Arts Center, Mystic, CT
2007 30th Annual Exhibition, Ridgefield Guild of Artists, Ridgefield, CT
2007 Biennial Regional Juror's Choice Exhibition, Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, Keene, NH

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2018 The Luxembourg Art Prize finalist, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
2017 Career Advancement Grant, Colorado Creative Industries, Denver, CO
2013 Haven Foundation Grant, The Haven Foundation, Brewer, ME
2012 Artist Fellowship Grant, Artists' Fellowship Inc., New York, NY
2011 Artist Fellowship Grant, Artists' Fellowship Inc., New York, NY
2010 Artist Fellowship Grant, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
2010 Best Emerging Artist in Painting, GLAAD OutAuction NYC
2007 Award for Excellence, Ridgefield Guild of Artists, Sponsored by Denice Militello
2007 The New Haven Paint & Clay Club Prize Award, Sponsored by The New Haven Paint & Clay Club
2007 People's Choice Award, Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, Keene, NH
2006 Fellowship Grant in Studio Art, Keene State College Art Department, Keene, NH
2006 People's Choice Commendation Award, Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, Keene, NH

PUBLICATIONS

Hi-Fructose Magazine
Luxe Magazine
Huffington Post
This Is Colossal
PAPER Magazine
Colorado Homes & Lifestyle Magazine
Modern In Denver
New American Paintings
DesignBoom
Forbes
The Advocate
Poets N' Artists
Art Ltd

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