



TERRY THOMPSON

NOTHING BUT NEON: New Paintings

Pictured on cover: Hollywood Premiere, 2021, oil on linen, 30 x 24 inches.

Terry Thompson

Nothing But Neon: New Paintings

October 16 - November 13, 2021

GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY 

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

Terry Thompson: Nothing But Neon

I see beauty in old neon signs.

I have always been fascinated by the glow inside the hand-bent, glass tubes. I enjoy the sculptural, mechanical, one-of-a-kind aspects of my subjects. And the words, fonts, caricatures, and colors; I love all of that too.

Sometimes these signs are weather worn, rusted and dilapidated, with layers of peeling paint – all of which speak to change, and unrelenting time. I try to embrace and honor these signs from a by-gone era, an idealized “America” reminiscent of my youth. They are part of our history, for better or worse.

My process begins with finding the sign. I spend a lot of time searching for them, looking on-line, and in books. Some I just stumble upon. When I travel, I hunt for signs, so many of my paintings chronicle my travels. I’ve painted signs from Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Oklahoma, Nevada, Indiana, Montana, Texas, and my home state of California.

I take lots of photographs of each sign, often at different times of the day. I study the sign; I strive to absorb the essence of the sign and the place. Then, after doing a basic drawing, I begin painting, usually in many thin layers. I often make numerous changes in color and composition, until I am happy.

Sadly, many of the signs that I’ve painted have since been destroyed or have disappeared. I never thought I would be doing documentation, but as time passes, this has become another facet of my work.





Hi-Lo Motel (Vacancy XI), 2021

oil on canvas

28 x 42 inches



Santa Fe Motel, 2018

oil on canvas

28 x 42 inches



T-Bird Motel, 2020

oil on canvas

32 x 24 inches

Private Collection







5th St. Liquor, 2020

oil on canvas

36 x 36 inches

Private Collection

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24 Hr. Pastrami, 2021

oil on canvas

36 x 36 inches

Private Collection





Circus Liquor, 2021

oil on canvas

34 x 34 inches



Aladdin, 2018
oil on canvas
33 x 44 inches

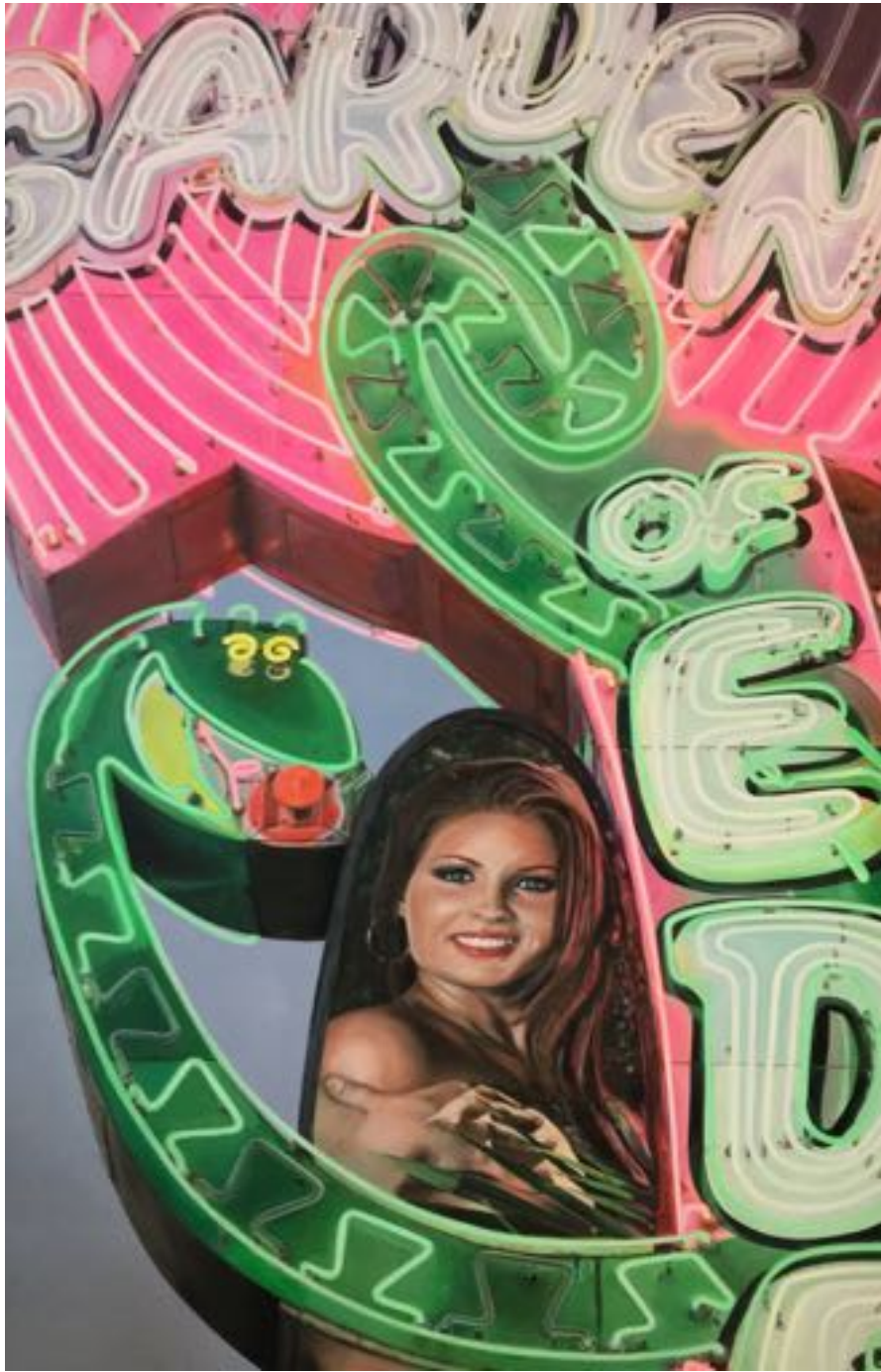




Vince's Spaghetti, 2018

oil on canvas

28 x 42 inches



Garden of Eden, 2018

oil on canvas

60 x 40 inches



Terry Thompson

Born 1963, Mountain View, CA

EDUCATION

- 2005 M.F.A. Pictorial Art, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 2003 B.A. Studio Art, summa cum laude, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 1995 B.S. Industrial Technology, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
- 1988 A.S. Electronic Technology, San Jose City College, San Jose, CA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Nothing But Neon: New Paintings, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Sign Language, 111 Minna Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 Words & Pictures, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Dive Motels and Cheap Eats, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 Rich Text, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2011 Signs of Life, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Everything is Electrified, b. sakata garo, Sacramento, CA
- 2010 Recent Work, ArtZone 461 Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 New Paintings, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
The Streets of San Francisco, Caffè' Museo, SF MOMA Artist's Gallery
- 2007 Terry Thompson, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2006 Roadside Art, The CA Museum for History, Women & the Arts, Sacramento, CA
(Catalog)
Recent Work, b. sakata garo, Sacramento, CA
- 2005 Neon Nights, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
- 2004 New Work, Voshan Gallery, Palo Alto, CA
Recent Paintings, Voshan Gallery, Palo Alto, CA
- 2002 Cityscapes, d.p. fong galleries, San Jose, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 The Cityscape Show XII, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 Exterior, Marin Community Foundation, Novato, CA
- 2019 Art Market San Francisco, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 Art Market San Francisco, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Palm Springs Fine Art Fair, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 The Cityscape Show VII, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 Palm Springs Fine Art Fair, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 The Cityscape Show IV, George Billis Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Image Hungry, Gary Francis Gallery, Alameda, CA
Red Dot Art Fair, George Billis Gallery, Miami, FL
Palm Springs Fine Art Fair
- 2013 Cover to Cover: A Survey of Artist Members' Photo Books, SF Camerawork, San Francisco
- 2012 Three Artist Exhibition: SFMOMA Artists Gallery, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA
Photographs by Terry Thompson, Stanford Art Space, Stanford University, CA
Contemporary Realism Biennial (catalogue), Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
Chain Reaction: Artists Consider the Bicycle, The de Saisset Museum of Art, Santa Clara University, CA
George Billis Gallery, San Francisco Fine Art Fair. Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 George Billis Gallery, San Francisco Fine Art Fair—Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA
16 @ 49, ModernBook Gallery, San Francisco, CA (photography)

- 2010 The San Francisco Fine Art Fair, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA
2010 Biennial: Contemporary American Realism, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
(Catalog)
The Seduction of Duchamp, Los Gatos Art Museum, Los Gatos, CA (Catalog)
The Seduction of Duchamp – Bay Area Artists' Response, 461 Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Los Angeles Art Show (George Billis) L.A., CA
A Sense of Place, de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
Environments, Louie Meager Art Gallery, Ohlone College, Fremont CA
(photographs)(Catalog)
- 2008 Biennial: Contemporary American Realism, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
City Light - A Cityscape Group Show, George Billis Gallery, NY, NY
Building a Team: 11th Annual Art of Baseball Exhibition, George Krevsky Gallery, San
Francisco, CA
Los Angeles Art Show (George Billis), Barker Hangar, Santa Monica, CA
- 2007 Friends and Artists, b. sakata garo, Sacramento, CA
San Francisco Scenes, George Krevsky Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Pop Realism, George Billis Gallery, L.A. CA
Red Dot Art Fair (George Billis), New York, NY
City Life, SFMOMA Artist's Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 The Last Picture Show, F8 Fine Art Gallery, Austin, Texas
ICA 26th Annual Fall Art Auction, Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
Lift Off, SJSU MFA Graduates, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
- 2005 New California Masters, WORKS Gallery San Jose, CA (statewide, juried)
ICA 25th Annual Fall Art Auction, Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
Fresh Strokes, Heritage Fine Arts Collaborative, San Jose, CA
- 2004 ICA 24th Annual Fall Art Auction, Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA
Introductions 2004, b. sakata garo, Sacramento, CA (Catalog)
Landscapes & Cityscapes, d.p. fong Galleries, San Jose, CA
- 2003 Art Bowl III - Juried Northern Cal. M.F.A. Exhibition, b. sakata garo, Sacramento, CA
Los Gatos Art Association Juried Show, Los Gatos Art Museum, Los Gatos, California
- 2002 Current SJSU Faculty and Student Work, Heritage Fine Arts Collaborative, San Jose, CA
Los Gatos Art Association Juried Show, Los Gatos Art Museum, Los Gatos, CA
WORKS 25th Anniversary Members Show, WORKS Gallery, San Jose, CA
Los Gatos Art Association Juried Exhibition, Los Gatos Art Museum
WORKS Annual Member Show, WORKS Gallery, San Jose, CA

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2005 Violet Speddy Scholarship, San Jose State University
- 2004 Catherine Urban Scholarship, SJSU
- 2003 Helen Dooley Scholarship, SJSU
Randall Sadler Scholarship, SJSU
Honorable Mention, Los Gatos Art Association Annual Juried Exhibition, Los Gatos Art
Museum, Los Gatos, CA
- 2002 Merit award, AVA Exhibition, Triton Museum, Santa Clara, CA
First Place, Los Gatos Art Association Annual Juried Exhibition, (Juror - Randall Sexton)

COMMISSIONS

- Red Car Wines, L.A., CA
- San Jose Jazz Society, CA
- Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, CA
- IBM Corporation, CA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2004-05 Instructor- San Jose State University, School of Art & Design, San Jose, CA
2005 & 2007 Invited Lecturer – San Jose Art History Club

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Weinstein, Dave, 2019, Mar. 4 "Marin Exhibits Go Inside and Out" EichlerNetwork.com
(Blog) www.eichlernetwork.com/blog/dave-weinstein/marin-exhibits-go-inside-and-outside
Evans, Kate, "Terry Thompson," Content, Issue 8.1, June 2017, pg 20-23
Bromwich, Kathryn, "Snapshots: The Signs They are a-changin'," The New Review, May 28, 2017
The Jealous Curator, www.thejealouscurator.com/blog/2017/05/10/terry-thompson/, May 10, 2017
Jaccarino, Pamela, "2015 Gold List" Luxe Interiors & Design, Los Angeles, Vol. 13, Issue 1, 2015, Print
Hernandez, Jo Farb. A Celebration of 100 Years of the Department of Art. San Jose, Natalie & James Thompson, SJSU Art Dept. 2013. Print
Rose, Joshua, "Banal Beauty" - American Art Collector (July, 2009)
Contemporary American Realism. Essays by Annette Blaugrund and Donald Kuspit, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, 2008 Biennial, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 2008
Elliott, Amy, "January Art Fair Preview" American Art Collector (January, 2008)
Rose, Joshua, "Signs of the Times" American Art Collector (July, 2007)
Dalkey, Victoria, "Critic's Pick" Sacramento Bee (March 24, 2006)
Swanson, Ben, et al, The Santa Clara Review – Volume 93, no.1 2006, Santa Clara University
White, Tim, "Urban Images" Sacramento News & Reviews (July 22, 2004)
Gant, Michael S., "Neon Notions," Metro Newspaper (22 August, 2002)

FILM

2008 Opal- Reflective Films, stop motion animation drawing sequence.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Crocker Museum of Art, Sacramento CA
The San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, CA
The California Museum, Sacramento, CA
The Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
The Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, IN
De Saisset Museum of Art, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA
University of Alabama, Art Museum, Tuscaloosa, AL
Metro Newspaper, San Jose, CA
IBM Corp., San Jose, CA
VISA Inc, San Francisco, CA

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