

# HdM GALLERY

## “NEW YORK BY NIGHT” CURATED BY SPENCER SWEENEY

2018.03.23 – 2018.05.06

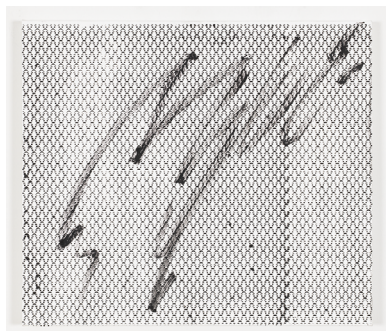
**Artists: Korakrit Arunanondchai | Lizzi Bougatsos | Verne Dawson | Brian Degraw | Peter Doig | Urs Fischer | Gerasimos Floratos | Cy Gavin | Jacqueline Humphries | Marcus Jahmal | Sadie Laska | Danny McDonald | Elizabeth Peyton | Pieter Schoolwerth | Agathe Snow | Spencer Sweeney | Rirkrit Tiravanija**



Spencer Sweeney, New York by Night, 2018



Verne Dawson, The New Road, 2017



Jacqueline Humphries, Untitled, 2016

HdM Gallery Beijing is pleased to present "New York by Night", Spencer Sweeney's personal artistic journey through the streets of the New York from the late 90's until today. Bringing works selected and assembled by Spencer Sweeney himself, the exhibition brings together 17 of the most celebrated artists from New York's creative community.

Spencer Sweeney is New York Downtown's cultural magnate. As an artist, he defies categories, even if most of his practice revolves around painting, which often beams with colors through mystical pop themes. He is also a musician, and a former club owner and a DJ. He seems to need public exposure to unlock his complete potential. But Sweeney is more than the sum of all this. For the past 20 years, he has been the catalyst, the galvanizer, the activator of one of the most creative communities of New York City. "New York by Night" is a celebration of this community.

Sweeney curated this exhibition using his most important personal encounters in New York as a compass. The artworks presented here don't follow any aesthetic or formal theme, but a human connection: they all were produced by his close circle of artist friends and collaborators.

Hopping off the bus from Philadelphia in 1997, Sweeney settled in downtown New York to be an artist and benefit from the city's pollinating and stimulating creative climate. He quickly made friends that would influence him as an artist, and enrich him as a human – two sides of the same coin.

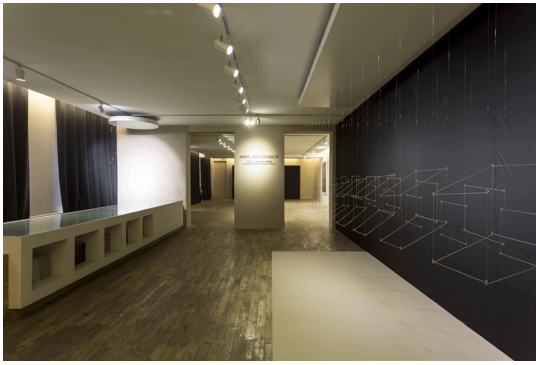
Here is a quick timeline of how Sweeney assembled this unique community.

During his early New York years, Sweeney used to go to Printed Matter on Wooster Street, where he first met Lizzie Bougatsos (who was then working there), and her friend, Brian DeGraw. Right down the street was one of the most interesting art galleries of that time, America Fine Arts (AFA), owned by Colin de Land. At AFA, he met Pieter Schoolwerth, Sadie Laska and Danny McDonald around 1997-1999. They were all artists represented by, or former employees of, that gallery. De Land's wife was the iconic art dealer Pat Hearn. It was at her gallery that Elizabeth Peyton and Sweeney met, during a music performance de Land and Sweeney had collaborated on. At that point, Elizabeth Peyton asked Sweeney if he would sit for a portrait which would in time be followed by many others (one of which is included in the exhibition).

The legendary downtown enfant terrible Dash Snow introduced Sweeney to his then wife, Agathe Snow. Their love of art probably sealed their friendship forever. Besides, Sweeney formed the art-rock band Actress with Lizzie Bougatsos and Sadie Laska. It was during one of Actress's performance at Greene Naf-tali in the late 1990s that he met Jacqueline Humphries. In the early 2000s, Gavin Brown Enterprise (GBE) started showing Spencer Sweeney's works. It was around that time (the early 2000s) that he met Peter Doig, Rirkrit Tiravanija and Verne Dawson who were also represented by GBE. Doig painted a fantastic mural in Sweeney's nightclub - Santos. In 2003, Sweeney had his first show at GBE, and met Urs Fischer who had the following exhibition. Today Fischer and Sweeney host a weekly party on Market Street.

This circle of friends and collaborators is still open and active. For example, he met Cy Gavin through Lia Gangitano, founder of Participant Inc, five years ago. About a year ago, while walking through art openings, he met Gerasimos Floratos and Marcus Jahmal. Sweeney got to know Korakrit Arunanondchai during the young artist's thesis show at Columbia. He asked the young artist to do some work for Santos.

Through these artworks, we can relive the making of one of the most creative communities of New York of the last two decades. Interestingly, the human and the aesthetic component are neither significantly different nor disconnected, they actually coincide: they are tied together by the emotional journey led by Sweeney, which shines through the myriad of artists' characters and art forms. Understanding this art exhibition is like deciphering the family ties in a village, which is New York City.



## HdM GALLERY

HdM GALLERY is a contemporary and modern art gallery with a special focus on Chinese contemporary art. Founded in Beijing by Hadrien de Montferrand in 2009, it opened a second space in Hangzhou in 2013 headed by Olivier Hervet. A third space will open in London in 2018.

Since its inception, the gallery has hosted solo shows of established Chinese artists including He An, Zhao Zhao and Jiang Zhi. It also launched the careers of younger artists such as Lu Chao, Wang Yi and Zhu Rixin. To broaden their audience, the gallery has tried to form partnerships for their promotion abroad. Thus, He An presented 2 solo shows at Galerie Daniel Templon in Paris and Brussels, Lu Chao's work was the object of a solo show at Galerie Nathalie Obadia in 2016 and Wang Xiaoshuang will exhibit his work at Galerie Diane de Polignac in October 2017.

Besides, the gallery has sought to bring Western artists to a new audience in Asia, often by presenting them alongside well-known Chinese artists. Dual shows of Venezuelan artist Elias Crespín with Ding Yi, of Cameroonian artist Barthélémy Toguo with Guo Wei and French artist Jean-Charles Blais with Wang Keping are part of this logic.

Finally, the gallery devotes some of its roster to widening the appeal of 20th Century art. It thus presented shows of works on paper by modern masters and two group exhibitions of preparatory sketches for propaganda paintings entitled "History in the Making".

## FOUNDERS

Hadrien de Montferrand has long served as a bridge between the Art worlds of China and Europe. His more than seven years at various auction houses and Art institutions included roles as marketing director for ARTCURIAL, the largest French auction house, and for the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing. He has headed the development of the gallery in Beijing since 2009.

Laurent Dassault, an entrepreneur to the core, helped to found Arquna, continental Europe's leading horse auction house, in 2006. His entrepreneurial spirit extends to his charitable activities as well: Laurent serves as the administrator of the "Friends of Pompidou Museum's Association" in Paris, and heads the development committee for the auction house ARTCURIAL.

Olivier Hervet graduated with an MA in Classics from Oxford University in 2008. After working for Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery since its inception in 2009 where he developed the gallery's network of young collectors, he became a partner in 2012 with the goal of opening a second space in China.



## Gallery Contact

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Duration: 23 March - 6 May 2018

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday from 11am to 6pm  
(Or by appointment)

[www.hdmgallery.com](http://www.hdmgallery.com)



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