

GALERIE ISABELLE GOUNOD



LESLIE SMITH III

*STRANGERS*

14. 03 - 11. 04. 2020

Opening on March 14<sup>th</sup> from 4.p.m to 8.p.m

Leslie Smith III, *The Backside of Happiness*, 2020, oil, acrylique and graphite on shaped canvas, 25.75 x 19.5 in/ 66 x 50 cm

13, rue Chapon 75003 Paris - 01 48 04 04 80 - [www.galerie-gounod.com](http://www.galerie-gounod.com) – [contact@galerie-gounod.fr](mailto:contact@galerie-gounod.fr)

# Leslie SMITH III

## *Strangers*

From March 14<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Opening on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> from 4.p.m to 8.p.m

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**As first Leslie Smith III 's solo exhibition in France, *Strangers* is bringing together a new set of shaped canvas exploring the range of emotions that a first encounter provokes in each individual.**

On the wall are appearing abstract silhouettes assembled in moving and colourful compositions. Vibrant sections of blue are brushing against each other and coming closer together. Elsewhere, a broad brushstroke is violently distorting a quasi-flat layer of dark green. Not far away, it is a charcoal pile that seems to float on the surface of a pale patch of colour. Following the combinations, the shapes are attracting, uniting, touching each other with their crests tips, upside down or in balance, held together despite their differences, their otherness.

Of course, the reference to the pioneers of minimalist painting stands out, among those who experimented with shaped canvas in the early 1960s: Franck Stella and his geometric assemblages, Charles Hinman and his three-dimensional paintings, Robert Mangold, Ellsworth Kelly or Kenneth Noland and their extremely refined compositions. However, Leslie Smith III departs fundamentally from this: to the minimalist slogan, which postulates the rejection of all illusion and all allusion, the artist opposes a more sentimental attitude.

His painting is released from all rigorous protocol, as well as from the orthogonality so dear to the proponents of minimalism. The lines here are slackened, the structure softening with tenderness to finally round the angles. In addition, the artist substitutes for the pure coloured areas shimmering backgrounds with richer and more varied patterns and textures.

Illusion - because there is illusion - is played out on the field of a delayed perception. First there are those shapes that only colours are drawing in space and which can be seen from afar. Ghostly figures and interrupted lines which, superimposed on the contours of the assembled shaped-canvas, later come to oppose and push back their physical limits. The disturbance is thrown to the depths of the eyes, trying to resolve the contradictions that each painting contains.

Circumventing the injunction of a straight objectivity, the titles finally denote a narrative dimension far removed from the traditional "Untitled". It is about happiness, devotion, fulfillment and servitude. So many allusions to what unites or constrains us, to all that a first encounter implies and founds the identity of each individual in his or her relationship with others.

Leslie Smith III thus modulate the formal vocabulary of abstraction to initiate new forms of cohabitation and to point out the mechanisms that define us as interacting subjects. Each work imposes itself both as a pure object and as a fragment of thought, witnessing the artist's attempts to resolve the complexity of our multiple identities. The result is a cosmopolitan painting, made of confrontations and conciliations; a painting that also mobilizes us, requiring us to stare at it for a long time in order to better understand and recognize it.

Thibault Bissirier, january 2020



Leslie SMITH III  
*On Thin Ice*, 2019  
Oil on shaped canvas  
26.5 x 20 in / 67,3 x 50 cm



Leslie SMITH III  
*Slavish Devotion*, 2020  
Oil on shaped canvas  
27.5 x 26.5 in / 70 x 67,5 cm



Leslie SMITH III  
*Stranger*, 2020  
Oil on shaped canvas  
61 x 70 in / 155 x 178 cm





## Leslie SMITH III

Born in 1985 in Silver Springs, Maryland.  
Lives and works in Madison, Wisconsin.

<http://www.lesliesmith3.com/>

### EDUCATION

- 2009 *Master of Fine Arts*, Yale University.  
2007 *Bachelor of Fine Arts*, Maryland Institute College of Art.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Strangers*, Galerie Isabelle Gounod, Paris, France.  
2017 *Locus of Control*, Maus Contemporary, Birmingham, Alabama.  
*Redaction*, 'sindikit project, Baltimore, Maryland.  
2016 *Time Further Out*, Galleria Ponce+Robles, Madrid, Spain.  
2015 *Vivir en la tierra plana (Living In The Flat Land)*, Galleria Ponce+Robles, Madrid, Spain.  
2014 *Vacation*, Olive DeLuce Gallery, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Missouri.  
*As I Remembered*, beta pictoris gallery / Maus Contemporary, Birmingham, Alabama.  
*Opposing Dysfunction*, Wriston Art Galleries. Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin.  
2013 *I Dream Too Much*, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, Wisconsin.  
2012 *Leslie Smith III : Representation, Abstraction, Oscillation*, Dean Jensen Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 BIENVENUE Art Fair, Stand Galerie Isabelle Gounod, Paris, France.  
EXPO Chicago 2019, section EXPOSURE, Stand Maus Contemporary Gallery, Chicago.  
*Aftereffect: Georgia O'Keeffe and Contemporary Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, Colorado.  
*as a gesture holding light*, cur. : Guido Maus, Galerie Isabelle Gounod, Paris, France.  
Drawing Now Paris, Stand Galerie Isabelle Gounod, Paris, France.  
2018 *Change Agent*, Patrick Mikhail Gallery, Montréal, Canada.  
2017 *Echo Spectrum*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, New York.  
*Minimal Gestures*, Galerie Heike Strelow, Frankfurt, Germany.  
2016 *Losing My Edge: New Perspectives in Abstract Figurative Painting*, University of Montevallo, Alabama.  
ARCOmadrid, Madrid, Spain.  
Volta NY, New York.  
2015 Volta11, Basel, Switzerland.  
2014 *Black In The Abstract Part II: Hard Edges/Soft Curves*, cur.: Valerie Cassel Oliver, Bill Arning & Dean Daderko, Contemporary Art Museum Huston, Houston, Texas.  
*Monochromatic*, Triumph & Disaster, Montgomery, Alabama.  
*Parallax Futured: Transtemporal Subjectivities*, Skirball Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Pulse New York Contemporary Art Fair, New York.  
Volta10, Basel, Switzerland.

- 2013 *Wisconsin 30*, Milwaukee Museum of Art, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
*pulp 3, works on paper - works with paper*, beta pictoris gallery / Maus Contemporary, Birmingham, Alabama.  
*Big Bangs / Small Bucks Redux*, Dean Jensen Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.  
 Texas Contemporary Art Fair, Houston, Texas.  
 ArtPad SF Art Fair, San Francisco, California.
- 2012 *Voices of Home*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York.  
*Voices of Home*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, California.  
*25 for 25*, Dean Jensen Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2011 *Intersecting Cultures / Virtual Worlds*, Underground Gallery, Miami, Florida.  
*Two Men 2011: Tim Roseborough & Leslie Smith III*, Strivers Gardens Gallery, New York.
- 2010 *In/Ex*, Gallery M, New York.  
*Balls*, Obsidian Arts, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
*Joel Dean, Fabienne Lasserre, Leslie Smith III*, Jolie Laide Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2009 *Emerge CT: 2009 MFA Graduates from UConn*, Western Connecticut State and Yale, Stamford, Connecticut.  
 Yale University School of Art M.F.A. Thesis Show, New Haven.
- 2008 *Verge*, Galapagos Art Space, New York.
- 2007 *Visions of Conflict: Rendering Dissent*, Gormley gallery College of Notre Dame, Baltimore, Maryland.  
 MAEF Juried Exhibition | Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland.  
 Maryland Institute College of Art B.F.A. Thesis Show, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2006 Taylor Companies Retrospective Show, Taylor Companies, Washington DC.

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2009 American Academy in Rome, Al Held Affiliate Fellowship, Roma, Italy
- 2007 Best in show, Maryland Artist Equity Foundation Juried Exhibition, Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland
- 2006/07 Freda Eichelberger Scholarship
- 2003/07 Thailheimer Scholarship
- 2003/07 ARTS Scholarship, MICA / Maryland Institute College of Art
- 2003 National Foundation for the Advancement in the Arts Finalist and Scholarship recipient



Exhibition view : "After Effects: Goergia O'Keefe and contemporary art", MOCA Denver, 2019



Leslie SMITH III in his studio, november 2019

## ART FAIRS

**Drawing Now 2020 | Carreau du Temple, Paris | 26 - 29 march 2020**

Focus & Master Now : Carolyn CARLSON

Sophie KITCHING ; Leslie SMITH III

**Draw Art Fair | Saatchi Gallery, London | 21 - 24 may 2020**

Glen BAXTER ; Sophie KITCHING ; Audrey MATT AUBERT ; Lenny RÉBÉRÉ

## UPCOMING AT THE GALLERY

**Michaële-Andréa SCHATT | April - May 2020**

**Jacqueline DAURIAC | June - Juliet 2020**

## OUTDOORS

**Une partie de campagne | 26 - 28 June 2020**

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## ARTISTS REPRESENTED BY THE GALLERY

Pierre AGHAIKIAN (FR), Glen BAXTER (UK), Dan BRAULT (CA), Martin BRUNEAU (FR)  
Jacqueline DAURIAC (FR), Martin FERNIOT (UK/FR), Luke HENG (SG), Sophie KITCHING (UK/FR)  
Florent LAMOUREUX (FR), Jérémy LIRON (FR), Audrey MATT AUBERT (FR), Catherine MELIN (FR)  
Aurore PALLET (FR), Lenny RÉBÉRÉ (FR), Pierre-Alexandre RÉMY (FR), Michaële-Andréa SCHATT (FR)  
Leslie SMITH III (USA), Katharina ZIEMKE (DE)

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## GALERIE ISABELLE GOUNOD

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