

Don Lisy

Born February 7, 1974 in Cleveland, Ohio. Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

Biography

Don Lisy was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and creates his art as if revolting against the Midwest sensibilities that dominate the critical and popular mind sets of his hometown. Don attended the Cleveland Institute of Art where he studied Printmaking and Painting. Don's work has been compared to the New York school of action painters, however, Don's work is not derivative from any one school. Each of Don's works are created in one session. By immediately succumbing to the emotional energy that inspires his work, Don feels he is best able to represent that emotion if he can complete the work before the feeling dissipates. Each resulting work is more of a self portrait of an emotional event rather than an image concerned with aesthetics.

Don's first visit to New York City was in December 1993. Over the years he often returned to NYC for group exhibitions and also performances with his band. It was during a visit in 2001 that Don connected with New York on a new level which planted the seed that one day he must live there. In the spring of 2010, Don left family and friends in Cleveland and made the permanent move to Brooklyn where he continues to dedicate himself to his own personal artistic vision. In December 2016, after an over decade long absence, Don re-established a studio in Cleveland. Don's work has been exhibited across the United States and internationally in Germany, Italy and Spain.

Education

1992 - 1995 Cleveland Institute of Art, Cleveland, Ohio

Solo Exhibitions

2012

Select Fair I Miami I Art Basel, The Catalina Hotel, Miami, FL
In-Between, Morgan art of papermaking Conservatory, Cleveland, OH

2011

In-Between, Hausmann Millworks, San Antonio, TX

2010

Solo Exhibition, Liloveve Gallery, Brooklyn ,NY

2003

Solo Exhibition, Bockrath Gallery, Cleveland, OH

Past Exhibitions

2017

The Creators Collective, AMPLIFY, 100 Bogart, Brooklyn, NY
The Creators Collective, Spring Party, Salzy, Brooklyn, NY

2015

Small Works Group Exhibition, The Greenpoint Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2014

Clicking The Moment: Ephemeral & It's Opposite, Onishi Gallery, New York, NY
WAV Party Madrid, Centro Cultural La Vaguada, Madrid, Spain

2013

Dacia Presents: Times Square Art Show, Times Square Art Center New York, NY
Nothing Is Big Or Small For The Universe, Palazzo Bufalini, Citta' Di Castello Italy
See I Me: The Story of the Creative, Angel Orensanz Foundation New York, NY
Chianti Star Festival, Palazzo Malaspina in San Donato, Italy
It's All About Energy, Onishi Gallery, New York, NY
ImaginAction in Berlin, Vierraumladen Gallery, Berlin, Germany
Engage, Liloveve Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2012

Select Fair I Miami I Art Basel I, The Catalina Hotel, Miami, FL
Dacia Gallery Presents: Art Show On Broadway, NOHO Event Center, New York, NY
In-Between, Morgan art of papermaking Conservatory, Cleveland, OH
Works on Paper NYC, Jeffrey Leder Gallery, Long Island City, NY
The Green Show, White Carpet Gallery @ Hillyard, Des Moines, IA
Look Art Party, New York, NY
International Painting NYC, Jeffrey Leder Gallery, Long Island City, NY

2011

Curate NYC, Rush Arts Gallery + Resource Center, New York, NY
4 Ever Morgan, Morgan art of papermaking Conservatory, Cleveland, OH
Sweeping Up The Mess, White Carpet Gallery @ Hillyard, Des Moines, IA
Booking It To Brooklyn, Central Booking, Brooklyn, NY
In-Between, Hausmann Millworks, San Antonio, TX
Honey, Liloveve Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2010

Anthropoi, Flash Space, Lawrence, KS
Solo Exhibition, Liloveve Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
The White Show, Hausmann Millworks, San Antonio, TX
Art About Love, Liloveve Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2009

The White Show, Signs of Life Gallery, Lawrence, KS
Art Cares, Aids Task Force of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

2008

¡Mambo Muerto!, Spaces, Cleveland, OH
Morgan art of papermaking Conservatory, Cleveland, OH

2007

Garden Noir: Where the Wild Things Bloom, Spaces, Cleveland, OH

2003

Solo Exhibition, Bockrath Gallery, Cleveland, OH

2002

Group Show, Gallery Alexie, New York, NY

Collector Quotes

“What drives Don Lisy's work is his passion. In my time in the art world I've seen a number of artists, museum shows, studied art history, movements and seen countless gallery shows and seen fringe shows. In time a person starts to recognize a vision, but most importantly a work ethic, Don Lisy put actions behind his words and has for 20+ years – that's why I respect and appreciate owning a number of his works. His new paintings are larger than ever before and I can say emphatically, keep painting bigger Don, It's working. I'm very proud to have Don Lisy's work not only in my personal collection but in my home.”

– *Rex Hausmann, San Antonio, TX (Hausmann Millworks: A Creative Community)*

“The charcoal drawing I own by Don Lisy is a favorite of my personal collection. The shapes depict an ambiguity and distorted representation of a particular subject or feeling. This mysterious element is what I love about Don's work. Each time I view my drawing and his other pieces, I see something different. As a writer and musician, I often receive various interpretations and explanations of my work and what it represents. I love and admire when someone's personal, artistic expression is interpreted differently by each viewer. Another element I enjoy about Don's drawing is the intense movement created by the charcoal strokes and smudges. The nature of them also reveal a mystery of what he might have been feeling and thinking about at the time of creation.”

–*Laura Boland, Brooklyn, NY*

"Lisy's paintings all have a visceral impact upon the viewer, conjuring up deep-seated fears, desires and memories. His work is provocative and intense; it invites rumination and reflection."
– *Boomee Danenberg, Brooklyn, NY*

"Don's perceptions about the everyday mundane to the serious climate of our world is reflected in his art and beliefs. Talking with him reaffirms his commitment to being "Don", who is a one of a kind, that I can attest to. Look close at all of his work, It really tells a story of his journey that has made him an artist I am amazed by! He can keep you on the proverbial edge. Yes I'm biased, but I don't sugar coat anything. Never have and never will. Having the privilege to witness Don create two paintings first hand in Cleveland in December & January 2016/2017 was rewarding in many ways. I love art, the talent and skill it takes that I do not have. I am pleased to have purchased four of his works to admire at my leisure."
– *Mike Golubski, Cleveland, Ohio*

"Don Lisy's painting is action and reaction to his environment and to color and movement. As many artists have noted, the beginning of abstraction always has to start with something, and Lisy's work starts with the figure. My response to his work is to be drawn in by the shapes, the color and the forms, and not to look for the objects that may or may not be recognizable. His work is passionate and typically elicits a strong response in the viewer. Certain paintings of his speak to me in ways that others do not. My response is affected by what shapes or colors are in the work itself. While Lisy's work is produced quickly, the work has grown and altered as he explores different ideas or works with other materials. It has been a great pleasure to see his work change and develop over time."
– *Darin White, Lawrence, KS*

"I shall continue to add Don Lisy's works to my collection! I have witnessed the evolution and look to future work by Don. I love how his painting occupies my space!"
–*Kim Osborne, New York, NY*

"As a collector of Don Lisy's art I feel there is a magnitude of emotions which flow through each piece. From his darker pieces to his pastel colors each texture and brush stroke have meaning. The darker pieces stir a feeling of a silent scream trapped inside while his lighter pieces leave feelings of light, hope and are calming. The deeper you look into the pieces the deeper you see a reflection of what is being stirred in your soul."
–*Bridgette Acheson, Chicago, Illinois*

Press

Huffington Post

Abstract Artist Don Lisy Breaks the Paradigms of Paint With His Signature Style

JustLuxe

From Cleveland to New York City, Artist Don Lisy Brings His Abstract, Emotive Style to the Fine Art World

Art of the Times Magazine

One Painters Journey From Art And Back Again

Ask Artists

Don Lisy: "Follow Your Own Vision"