

SEARS·PEYTON·GALLERY

NEW YORK·LOS ANGELES

James Kao

CV

EDUCATION

- 2016 MFA, Painting and Drawing, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2004 BFA, Studio Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
1997 BA, Philosophy, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

SOLO AND TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *James Kao: Quarry*, Sears-Peyton Gallery, New York, NY
2018 *James Kao: Starlight*, boundary, Chicago, IL
2017 *Shelter, likewise*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
2014 *Domestics*, Adds Donna, Chicago, IL
2011 *Habitations*, Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, Sandwich, NH
2010 *Do it cuz you love it*, China Projects, San Francisco, CA
Possible Worlds, Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, CA
2009 *Ways of Worldmaking*, Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL
2008 *Frequencies: New Paintings by Michael Ajerman and James Kao*, Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, CA
Prehensile, Ford Center for the Fine Arts, Knox College, Galesburg, IL
2007 *James Kao: New Paintings*, Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Chicago, IL
Filaments, Lee E. Dulgarr Gallery, South Suburban College, South Holland, IL
Dilations, Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Chicago, IL
2006 *James Kao: Recent Paintings*, American Theater Company, Chicago, IL

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Mobilizing the Landscape*, curated by Emily Noelle Lambert, Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery, Keene State College, Keene, NH
The Earth: Notes and Observations by Montello Foundation Artists, Southern Utah Museum of Art, Cedar City, UT
2020 *A mirror, a dish, a window: Zakkiiyah Najeebah Dumas-O'Neal, Lesley Jackson, James Kao, Minami Kobayashi, Emily Sher, and Ann Toebbe*, curated by Elizabeth Lalley, Goldfinch, Chicago, IL
2019 *McCormick House—Past, Present, and Future*, curated by Rob Kleinschmidt, Elmhurst Art Museum, IL
In Progress: the Plein Aire Project, Livingroom, Chicago, IL
Art at Kings Oaks, Kings Oaks Chapel, Newtown, PA
Summer Essentials, Sears Peyton Gallery, New York, NY
Storytellers, Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago, IL
With a Capital P: Selections by 6 Painters, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

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- 2018 *The Monochrome Set*, Soccer Club Club, Chicago, IL
The People's Forest: a Centennial Celebration of the White Mountain National Forest,
Museum of the White Mountains, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH
- 2017 *Blue Notes*, Ace Hotel, Chicago, IL
The Dangerous Professors, Triumph, Chicago, IL
Universal Love, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2016 Alfred and Trafford Klots International Program for Artists Exhibition, Abbaye Saint-
Magloire, Lehon, France
- 2015 *the Barack Obama Presidential Library*, Southside Hub of Production, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Baltimore Alternative Art Fair w/ Adds Donna, Baltimore, MD
Evanston + Vicinity Biennial, juried by Allison Peters Quinn & Sergio Gomez, Evanston Art
Center, Evanston, IL
Circle in a Square, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2013 Three Walls 10 x 10 Auction, Salvage One, Chicago, IL
artWork 6, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago, IL
- 2012 *Water-reading*, ADDS DONNA, Chicago, IL
Landscape: A Fresh Perspective, Patricia Ladd Carega Gallery, Sandwich, NH
B.A.D., curated by Molar Productions, Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, IL
- 2011 *MDW Fair* w/ Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL
Sexy, Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago, IL
Sexier, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL
Abacus Asleep with James Kao, Mie Kongo, and Sarah Nishiura, Art Igloo,
www.artigloo.com
Ox-Bow Benefit Auction, Architectural Artifacts, Chicago, IL
- 2010 *BamBUDDHAed*, curated by Larry Lee, portage ARTspace, Chicago, IL
CPC Student Exhibition, Chicago Printmakers Collaborative, Chicago, IL
Next Art Fair w/ Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL
Potluck, The Op-Shop, Chicago, IL
Hospitality House 25th Annual Auction, Andrea Schwartz Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 *University-wide*, juried by Allison Peters Quinn, DOVA Temporary, Chicago, IL
Seeking Art: 'Bargain Basement', a project by Hui-min Tsen, Co-Prosperity Sphere,
Chicago, IL
The Diorama Show, curated by Laura Schaeffer, HOME, Chicago, IL
Third National Juried Exhibition, juried by Susanna Coffey, Prince Street Gallery, New York,
NY
Seeking Art: 'Bargain Basement', a project by Hui-min Tsen, NFO EXPO, Version Fest,
Chicago, IL
- 2008 *(re)Visions*, The O' Connor Gallery of Art, Dominican University, River Forest, IL
Mutability: New Paintings by Sevando Garcia, James Kao, and Ann Toebbe, curated by
Patricia Courson, ATC Gallery, Chicago, IL
Ten, Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, CA
Bridge Art Fair w/ Toomey Tourell Fine Art, New York, NY

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- sMART Benefit & Auction*, Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, IL
artWork 5, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
- 2007 Flow: Miami Invitational Art Fair w/ Toomey Tourell Fine Art, South Beach, FL
Art Now Fair w/ Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Miami Beach, FL
Plaza Art Exhibition, Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, IL
Bridge Art Fair w/ Toomey Tourell Fine Art, London, UK
Faculty Group Exhibition, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL
Interstitial, Zhou B Arts Center, Chicago, IL
Bridge Art Fair w/ Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Chicago, IL
Celebration of Faculty Work, Rebecca Crown Library, Dominican University, River Forest, IL
Around the Coyote w/ Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2006 Pool Boomerang Art Fair w/ Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Miami Beach, FL
Moreover: Practicing Representation + Abstraction, curated by Michelle Grabner, Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, IL
Slowness, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL
Gallery Artists, Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Chicago, IL
SAIC Graduate Exhibition, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
Landscape, Seascape, Dreamscape, The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, Nassau Bay, TX
- 2005 *Plaza Art Exhibition*, Beverly Arts Center, Chicago, IL
Experiment 400/5, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL
Chicago Art Open, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
Strictly Drawing, Bloomingdale Park District Museum, Bloomingdale, IL
Nippon Steel USA, Inc., Juried Show, Chicago, IL
- 2004 *Undergraduated Talent*, ATC Gallery, Chicago, IL
SAIC Undergraduate Exhibition, Gallery 2, Chicago, IL
Nippon Steel USA, Inc., Juried Show, Chicago, IL
- 2003 Galleria ISA, Group Show, Montecastello di Vibio, Italy
Festival of the Arts, The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Co-Founder/ Co-Director, 4th Ward Project Space, 2014–Present
Visiting Artist Lecture, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts, Illinois State University, Normal, IL
Panelist, “A mirror, a dish, a window”: Artists in Conversation with Goldfinch, Chicago Gallery Open, presented by NADA, Chicago, IL, 2020
Visiting Artist Lecture, Sculpture Dialogues, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2020
Panelist, The Turf, Research House for Asian Art, Chicago, IL, 2019
Panelist, Collaborative Practices for Artist-Run Spaces, Chicago Artists Coalition, Chicago, IL, 2018
Faculty Teaching and Research Symposium, Under Hödler’s Clouds, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2018
Juror, Skyway Juried Art Competition and Exhibition, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, 2017
Artist’s Lecture, *Observations, Reflections, and Re-Presentations*, Faculty Speaker Series, Aurora

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University, Aurora, IL 2017

Lecture, *Art, Freedom, and Responsibility*, "Let Freedom Ring", Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2017

Co-Curator and author of catalogue essay, *Chrome Green*, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2015

Juror, Aurora Public Library Foundation, Aurora, IL, 2015

Juror, Space Coast Art Festival, Cocoa Beach, FL, 2011

Visiting Artist Lecture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Contemporary Practice Department, Chicago, IL, 2011

Visiting Artist Lecture and Critiques, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, 2011

Artist Lecture, 8 Days of Weeks: White Mountains Cultural Festival, The Branch: An Extension of the Jeanne Limmer Dance Center, North Conway, NH, 2011

Artist's Lecture, *Artist's Connect: James Kao Connects with Giovanni Battista Tiepolo*, Museum of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2011

Artist's Lecture, Ox-Bow School of Art, Saugatuck, MI, 2010

Artist's Lecture, Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2009

Visiting Artist Lecture and Critiques, Knox College, Galesburg, IL, 2008

Artist's Lecture, Gosia Koscielak Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2007

Visiting Artist Lecture, Whittier College, Whittier, CA, 2006

Co-Director, Interlink Visiting Artist Program, SAIC, Chicago, IL, 2005–2006

Panelist, *Painting: Issues of Color, "Wittgenstein, the Language of Color, and Painting"*, College Art Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2005

Co-Curator, *Drawn to Drawing*, Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, IL, 2005

Juror, Exhibitions and Events Committee, SAIC, Chicago, IL, 2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Aurora University, Associate Professor of Art, Aurora, IL, 2019–Present

Aurora University, Assistant Professor of Art, Aurora, IL, 2013–2019

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Instructor in Painting and Drawing, Chicago, IL, 2007–2013

Ox-Bow School of Art, Instructor in Painting and Drawing, Saugatuck, MI, summer 2010, 2013

SAIC, Early College Program, Instructor in Painting and Drawing, IL, 2006–Present

Dominican University, Adjunct Assistant Professor in Painting and Drawing, River Forest, IL, 2006–2010

Hyde Park Art Center, Instructor in Painting and Drawing, Chicago, IL, 2008

Evanston Art Center, Instructor in Painting and Drawing, Evanston, IL, 2006–2007

Indiana University Northwest, Instructor in Drawing, Gary, IL, 2006

SAIC, Teaching Assistant (Nine Teaching Assistantships in Studio, Seminar, and Art History), Chicago, IL, 2002–2005

Private Tutor in Painting and Drawing, Chicago, IL, 2001–2008

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Faculty Affairs Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2019–Present

Covid-19 Advisory Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2019–Present

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Assessment Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2018–2020
Faculty Speaker Series Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2013–Present
General Education Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2014–2018, Chair: 2017–18
Institutional Budget and Strategy Committee, Aurora University, Aurora, IL 2016–17
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Chair, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2014–16
Fine Arts Council, Aurora University, Aurora, IL, 2014–Present
Faculty Representative, Part-Time Concerns Committee of the Faculty Senate, SAIC, Chicago, IL,
2010–2013
Faculty Representative, Admissions, SAIC, Chicago, IL, 2007–2013
Senator, Student Government, SAIC, 2004
Judicial Review Committee, SAIC, Chicago, IL, 2002–2004

RESIDENCIES

Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency, Joshua Tree, CA, 2021
Montello Foundation, Montello, NV, 2019
Trelex Residency, Trelex, Switzerland, 2017
Alfred and Trafford Klots International Program for Artists, Lehon, France, 2016
Catwalk Art Residency, Catskill, NY, 2012
White Mountain National Forest, Sandwich, NH, 2011
Marina Abramović Institute–West, San Francisco, CA, 2010

CITATIONS

Templates for Public Art, Vol. 2, a project by Limited Time Engagement, October 2019.
Riksha: Asian American Creative Arts in Action, “Starlight”, v2.4, January, 2019.
The Comp Magazine, “An Idea, Reference or Sensation, with painter James Kao”, May 6, 2018.
Chicago Artists Portrait Project, Chester Alamo–Costello,
<http://alamo-costello.net/portfolio-item/chicago-portraits/>, 2018.
Le Telegramme, “Expo. Huit Américains inspirés à l’Abbaye”, July 16, 2016.
Asian American Art Oral History Project, DePaul University, 2016.
Southside Weekly, “Three Heads are Better than One”, Emiliano Burr DiMauro, April 28, 2015.
Art.Newcity.com, “Three New Gallery Programs Start This Summer While Humboldt Park Art Hub
Loses Its Lease”, Matt Morris, June 27, 2014.
Sarah Boyle Studio Journal (www.sarahboyle.squarespace.com) “Recent Shows: James Kao at Adds
Donna”, March, 2014.
Dumlam (dumlam.blogspot.de), May 7, 2014.
A/Art (<http://blogaart.blogspot.com>), November, 2013.
Conway Daily Sun, “White Mountain National Forest Artists in Residence Honored”, September 7,
2013.
Bailliwik, Issue 9, Autumn, 2012.
The Laconia Daily Sun, “‘Habitations’ exhibit opens at Sandwich Gallery”, Roger Amsden, September
1, 2011.
The Nashua Telegraph, Encore, Being White Mountain artist in residence offers different perspective

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than Chicago, Los Angeles", Robbie Feinberg, August 7, 2011.

Boston Globe, The Associated Press, "Chicago painter named NH forest artist.", July 17, 2011.

Bailliwik, Issue 8, Autumn, 2010.

at Length Magazine, "Poetry/ Painting", April, 2010.

ArtSlant.com, "Not So Ordinary", Roby Farrell Roulo, September 28, 2009.

at Length Magazine, "A Correspondence with James Kao", Elaine Bleakney, September, 2009.

Dominican Star, "(Re)visions Showcases Faculty Artwork", November 19, 2008.

Time Out Chicago, "Mutability", Garin Pirnia, Issue 189, October 9-15, 2008.

The Knox Student, "Kao paints with mixed meanings", Anjali Pattanayak, February, 21, 2008.

The Villager, "BAC Auction Offers Original Art", February 2008.

The Villager, "Winners Announced for 2007 Plaza Art Competition", December 2007.

Flavorpill Chicago, Issue 132, March 31, 2007.

Chicago Reader, March 29, 2007.

Chicago Sun-Times, "'Classic Hits' from the past still a real blast", Margaret Hawkins, March 23, 2007.

"Time is on Our Side", Terry Myers, exhibition catalogue for *Slowness*.

"Returns to an Evacuated Site", Aaron Walker, exhibition catalogue for *Slowness*.

F News, "Drawn to Drawing", Katrina Kuntz, July 2005.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Ace Hotel, Chicago, IL

White Mountain National Forest Service, Campton, NH

Nippon Steel USA, Inc., Chicago, IL

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James Kao

Artist Statement

James Kao is a Chicago-based artist who makes paintings and drawings. Selected one-person exhibitions include *Do it cuz you love it*, China Projects, San Francisco, CA; *Possible Worlds*, Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, CA; *Domestics*, Adds Donna, Chicago, IL; *Ways of Worldmaking*, Lloyd Dobler Gallery, Chicago, IL, and *Starlight*, boundary, Chicago, IL. He has attended various artist residencies including: Marina Abramovic Institute-West, San Francisco, CA; White Mountain National Forest Artist in Residence, Center Sandwich, NH; Catwalk Institute, Catwalk, NY; The Alfred and Trafford Klots International Program for Artists, Lehon, France; Trélex Residency, Trélex, Switzerland; and Montello Foundation, Montello, NV.

He is co-founder and co-director of 4th Ward Project Space in Chicago, IL.

James Kao holds M.F.A. and B.F.A. degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Chicago. He is Associate Professor of Art at Aurora University in Aurora, IL.