

# david lusk gallery

## michael crespo

b 1947 New Orleans

d 2010 Baton Rouge

*As I would have it, the painting cycle parallels my life cycle. There seems to be a continual unfolding growth. The vocabulary of my motifs slowly expands along my methods of making. There is always revisitation, a review of a subject previously viewed: perhaps in a slightly shifted light, or temperature, or as the principal in a thought on another day, in another field of mind, in another act of doing. I believe also that my larger references - themes of mythology and place -- are expanding also. I continue to let my reading and subsequent writing influence the course of my painting. With regard to influential books on this particular body of work, aside from the poets (always the poets, too numerous to name) there are: Lawrence Durrell's The Alexandria Quartet, Ernest Becker's The Denial of Death, Otto Rank's Art and Artist, Thomas Mann's Death in Venice, Haruki Murakami's Dance Dance Dance, Roberto Calasso's The Marriage of Cadmus and Harmony, Shunryu Suzuki's Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind and Branching Streams Flow in the Darkness, Iris Murdoch's The Good Apprentice, Nabokov's Pale Fire, Salvatore Sette's chronology of the Giorgione's painting La Tempesta, biographies of Joan of Arc, Guido Reni, and Artemisia Gentileschi, and The Secret of the Golden Flower. [I apologize for indulging in this list, but it does chronicle my life in the early hours of morning.]*

*Along with reading, I continue to write poems, prose fragments, and journal entries that are so important to my daily painting ritual, either as instigations to painting or reflections on paintings made. But in the end really, there is only the drive to my studio, the walking into my studio, the emptying of my mind, the commencement of work, the doing of work, the ending of work, the walking out of my studio, and the drive home.*

## education

1970 M.F.A. City University of New York, Queens, New York

1968 B.A. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

## solo exhibitions

2022 *Remembering*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2016 *Watercolors: Lifting Out*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2012 *Mysteries: Works by Michael Crespo*, LSU School of Art Alfred Glassell Gallery, Baton Rouge

2011 *Paintings from 2010*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2010 *La Dolce Vita, The art of good taste*, Brooks Wine Auction 2010, Michael Crespo featured artist, Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis

2008 *Myth and Magic: Recent Work by Michael Crespo*, Louisiana Art and Science Museum, Baton Rouge  
*Venus in Transit*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2006 Ann Connelly Gallery, Baton Rouge

*Wind and Night*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2005 McMurtrey Gallery, Houston

2004 *Dusk Through Dawn* David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2002 David Lusk Gallery, Memphis

2000 McMurtrey Gallery, Houston

1999 Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis

1998 McMurtrey Gallery, Houston

1997 The Grove Grill, Memphis

1996 *A Distant Pool, A Distant Garden*, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis

1995 Skokie Public Library Gallery, Skokie, IL

Shelby Restaurant, New York

1994 Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis

1993 McMurtrey Gallery, Houston

Carson Gallery, Baton Rouge

- 1992 Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1991 McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
Miriam Walmsley Gallery, New Orleans
- 1990 Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge,
- 1988 University of Southeastern LA, Hammond, LA
- 1986 New Orleans Center for the Performing Arts, New Orleans
- 1983 Nicholls State University, Thibodeaux, LA

## group exhibitions

- 2018 *Daily Art*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis and Nashville
- 2015 *Summer Reading*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2010 *Price is Right*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2009 *Price is Right*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2007 *Southern Living's 2007 Idea House*, David Lusk Gallery, Watersound, FL
- 2006 *Artists for the New Century Invitational*, Bennington Center for the Arts,  
Bennington, VT  
*Works on Paper*, David Lusk Gallery, The Armory, New York
- 2004 *Something Blue*, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
*Countless Perspectives: Louisiana Bicentennial Exposition*, Louisiana Tech University Art  
Galleries, Baton Rouge, LA  
*Birdspace; A Post-Audubon Aviary*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans (traveling exhibition), Norton  
Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; The Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY; McDonough Museum of  
Art, Youngstown, OH
- 2003 San Francisco International Art Fair, San Francisco
- 2002 *New Work*, Cudahy's Gallery, Richmond, VA  
Ohr-O'Keefe Museum, Biloxi, MS
- 2000 *Forbidden*, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
*Art Auction 2000*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
*Opening Group Exhibition*, D. Berman Gallery, Austin, TX  
*Visual Poetry*, Alexandria Museum of Art, Alexandria LA
- 1999 *Spectrum '99*, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga  
*Memphis College of Art Biennial II*, Memphis College of Art, Memphis
- 1998 *Spectrum '98*, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga  
*Art Auction '98*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
*Too Many Fish in the Sea*, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans  
*Director's Council Exhibit*, Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis  
*Painting in the New South*, University of Arkansas, Little Rock
- 1997 *Holiday*, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
*40th Annual Delta Exhibition*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
*Memphis College of Art Biennial*, Memphis College of Art, Memphis  
Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta  
*Red Stick Invitational*, Old State Capitol Galleries, Baton Rouge
- 1996 Malton Gallery, Cincinnati  
*Spectrum '96*, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga  
*Art Auction '96*, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
*Take Flight*, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
*Red Clay Survey*, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL  
*Harmony: An Artist's Viewpoint*, Louisiana Arts & Science Center, Baton Rouge  
Art Fair Seattle, (Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, TN), Seattle

- 1995 *Portraiture in the 90's*, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
 Malton Gallery, Cincinnati  
*Spectrum '95*, Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga  
*Samantha's Garden*, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
 Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN  
*Holiday Exhibition*, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis  
*Italian Influences*, Sylvia Schmidt Gallery, New Orleans  
 Bowery Gallery, New York  
 Seattle Art Fair (Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis, TN), Seattle
- 1994 *Painters and the Object*, McMurtrey Gallery, Houston  
 Seattle Art Fair (Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis, TN), Seattle  
 Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, Winston Salem, NC  
 Biennial Exhibition, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, AL  
 Sylvia Schmidt Gallery, New Orleans  
*Spectrum '94*, Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga
- 1993 Seattle Art Fair (Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis, TN), Seattle  
*Spectrum '93*, Hunter Museum of Art, Chattanooga  
 University Art Museum, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA
- 1992 *Primarily Paint*, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Austin, touring  
*The Red Clay Survey*, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL  
 Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
 Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- 1991 *Still Life*, Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, TX  
 Jewish Community Art Center, Houston  
 Galveston Arts Center, Galveston, TX
- 1990 West Baton Rouge Museum, Port Allen, LA
- 1988 Downtown Gallery, New Orleans  
 Masur Museum of Art, Monroe, LA  
 Simms Fine Art Gallery
- 1987 Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
*Fifty States Exhibition: A Salute to Michigan's Sesquicentennial*, Traverse City Arts Council,  
 Traverse City, MI
- 1986 Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans  
 Griffith Menard Gallery, Baton Rouge

## **awards and honors**

- 2004 Awarded *A Percent for the Arts Commission* to paint a 28 x 14" piece for the Claiborne Governmental Building  
 Baton Rouge, LA (national competition)
- 2000 Alumni Professorship, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge  
 Outstanding Teacher, College of Design, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- 1998 Distinguished Professor of Art, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- 1994 National Endowment for the Arts/Southern Arts Federation Grant
- 1987 Louisiana Division of the Arts, Artist Fellowship Award
- 1981 Graduate Council on Research Summer Award, Italy
- 1977 Graduate Council on Research Summer Award, Italy

## public collections

Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans  
Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
Arthur's Landing Restaurant, Weehawken, NJ  
Butler Snow, Memphis  
City National Bank, Baton Rouge  
Duke Energy Corporation Headquarters, New Orleans, LA, Little Rock  
Hnedak Bobo Group Architects, Memphis  
J. McIlhenny Collection, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge  
Lombari Mare, Dallas  
Louisiana Arts & Sciences Center, Baton Rouge  
Louisiana Division of the Arts, Baton Rouge  
nexAIR, Memphis  
Nordstrom, Inc., Seattle  
Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans  
Promus Hotel Corporation Headquarters, Memphis  
Roger Houston Ogden Collection, New Orleans  
Rose Family Foundation, Memphis  
Taco Bell Corporation, San Diego  
The Grill Room of the World Financial Center, New York  
Union Planters National Bank, Memphis

## bibliography

Country Roads Magazine, cover design, January 2006, Baton Rouge  
Bookhardt, Eric D., *Rare Bird, Indeed*, Gambit Weekly, Arts & Entertainment, February 24, 2004  
*New Delta Review*, Winter 2000: Vol. 17, No.1, Creative Writing Program of the LSU English Department, Baton Rouge, LA, cover image  
Smith, Dave, *The Wick of Memory*, LSU Press, 2000  
*New American Paintings*, Spring 1997  
Crespo, Michael L., *Watercolor Class*, New York: Watson Guptill Publications, 1994  
Appellof, Marian, Editor, *Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Oil Painting*, (Twelve Sections ), New York: Watson Guptill Publications, 1993  
Crespo, Michael L., *How To Make An Oil Painting*, New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 1990  
Crespo, Michael L., *Experiments in Watercolor*, New York: Watson- Guptill Publications, 1988  
Crespo, Michael L., *Watercolor Day by Day*, New York: Watson Guptill Publications, 1987

## professional

2000 Visiting Professor, Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Snowmass Village, CO  
1971-2010 Professor of Painting and Drawing, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge  
1990-96 Director, School of Art, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge  
1993 Summer Faculty, Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN  
1984-86 Director, *LSU In Florence*, summer studies program  
1971 Instructor, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA  
1971 Visiting Artist and Lecturer, Purdue University

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