

# david lusk gallery

## mary sims

b. 1940, Jackson TN

d. 2004, Eureka Springs, AR

*Recently, after several tedious attempts at drafting an artist's statement for a museum exhibition that eventually included help from an art historian and even the department secretary, I showed the statement to my husband, a writer, who said, "This doesn't make any sense, it's not serious and I don't understand what you mean."*

*"No kidding," I said, "writing is not my medium. Show me how you would sum up one of your books using a painting of a sketch."*

*After that disclaimer, which I hope enlists your sympathy, my statement about my work is that I paint because I love what things look like, and I love to explore them, down to the thread in the buttonhole. And, if I knew that the world would end in three days I would spend those three days in my studio listening to *The Magic Flute* and trash TV and following the thread.*

## education

- 1967 MFA, Tulane University, Graduate Assistantship, New Orleans
- 1962-65 Independent Study, Painting, Rome, Italy
- 1962 BFA, University of Iowa, Printmaking, Iowa City, IA

## solo exhibitions

- 2023 *EXPRESSION ACCELERATING: mid-career paintings*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2021 *Still Lives 1985 – 1995*, David Lusk Gallery, Nashville
- 2018 *All of a Piece*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2015 *Zuma and the Bible*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2013 *Waterlilies*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2007 *Bonaparte*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2004 *The Last Hoo Rah!*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2001 David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 1998 Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
Linda's, Eureka Springs, AR
- 1995 Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1992 Recent Paintings, Bingham Kurts Gallery, Memphis
- 1990 Rivercenter Gallery, Memphis  
Drury University, Springfield, MO
- 1988 Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1986 Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1984 Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1980 Clough Hanson Gallery, Rhodes College, Memphis
- 1981 Mary Sims, Recent Paintings, Shraybman Steinhauser, Los Angeles
- 1979 The Sycamore, Memphis
- 1978 Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Memphis
- 1975 The Sycamore, Memphis
- 1973 Recent Paintings, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR

## group exhibitions

- 2022 *Summer Stories*, David Lusk Gallery, Nashville
- 2019 *Daily Art*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis and Nashville
- 2015 *Summer Reading*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2013 *Price is Right*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2012 Context Art Miami, David Lusk Gallery, Miami
- 2010 *Art by Choice Auction*, Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, MS

- 2009 *A Dog's Life*, (curated by Beth Edwards), Memphis College of Art, Memphis
- 2006 *Flowers and Art*, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis
- 2002 *The Price is Right 5, Back With a Vengeance*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
*Flowers and Art*, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis
- 2001 *The Price is Right 3, Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
*Spectrum '00*, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga  
*The Price is Right 2, Once is Never Enough*, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 1998 *Director's Council Exhibit*, Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis  
*Looking Back: Rhodes College Faculty and Alumni*, Clough Hanson Gallery, Rhodes College, Memphis
- 1997 *Holiday Group*, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 1996 *Tree As Icon*, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
*Primates In Art Illustration*, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  
*Memphis In May*, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 1995 *Holiday*, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
*American Realism*, Jay Fletcher Gallery, Santa Fe  
*Memphis Arts Council*, Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects, Memphis
- 1994 *Small Scale, Grand Gesture*, Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1993 *Five Realists*, Rivercenter Gallery, Memphis
- 1992 *Red Clay Survey*, Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, AL  
*Women Artists in Arkansas*, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR  
*Arkansas Women in the Arts*, The Women's Museum, Washington, DC  
*The Hendrix Invitational*, Hendrix College, Conway, AR  
*Red: The Artists Respond*, Kurts Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1991 *Arkansas Women in the Arts*, Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock
- 1989 *American Realism*, J. Rosenthal, Chicago
- 1988 *Oxymorons on Art*, Schmidt-Bingham Gallery, New York
- 1987 Hooks Epstein Gallery, Houston

## bibliography

- 2017 Noah Saterstrom, *Really?* Group Show at David Lusk, [Nashville Arts](#), July 2017
- 2004 Frederic Koeppel, *Mary Sims a joyful, colorful realist*, [The Commercial Appeal](#), May 21, 2004, p. B3  
 Michael Finger, *Mary Sims, 1940-2004*, [Memphis Flyer](#), May 27-June 2, 2004, p. 9  
[Lovely County Citizen](#), *Transition*, *Mary Sims*, May 27, 2004, p. 22
- 2001 Ed Hicks, *The Real Thing*, [Memphis Business Journal](#), Nov. 23-29, 2001, p. 29  
 Janel Davis, *We Recommend*, [Memphis Flyer](#), Nov. 1-7, 2001, p. 21
- 1998-99 Arts Calendar, [Memphis Business Journal](#), Sept, 1998 visual
- 1998 *This Week-A Schedule of Events*, [The Memphis Flyer](#), Aug 27-Sept 2, 1998 visual
- 1996 At Home with Art, RSVP Magazine, June 1996
- 1996 John Beifuss, *Monkey*, [The Commercial Appeal](#), May 12, 1996  
 Kevin Lynch, *Art exhibit puts spotlight on primates*, [The Capital Times](#), Madison WI, Aug 7, 1996  
 Terry Keeter, *Sims Named to Design Memphis in May 20th Anniversary Poster*, [The Commercial Appeal](#)
- 1996 Monana McFarland, *UW art exhibit benefits primate conservation*, [Good News-Journal Sentinel](#),  
 University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 5, 1996  
*The Primate Thing*, Daybreak, [The Wisconsin State Journal](#), August 7, 1996, pg 1
- 1995 Linda Romine, *Animals in Art, Sims' Exhibition Shows Off Her Monkeys*, [The Memphis Business Journal](#),  
 May 22-26, 1995  
 John Beifuss, *Eureka Springs Artist Paints Primate Portraits*, [Arkansas Democrat](#), May 30,  
 Vanessa Jones, *Art-Best Bets*, [The Commercial Appeal](#), December 17, 1995  
*Nutcracker Sweet*, [The Commercial Appeal](#), December 4, 1995
- 1992 Fredric Koeppel, *Paintings lack substantiality*, Fanfare, [The Commercial Appeal](#), Section G,  
 March 15, 1992  
*Life at the Top, Solo exhibition at Bingham Kurts Gallery*, [The Memphis Business Journal](#),  
 March 9-12, 1992
- 1991 Whitney Smith, *'Beauty' glows in world made vivid by artist Sims*, [The Commercial Appeal](#), November  
 22, 1991

- 1990 Fredric Koeppel, *Mary Sims Exhibit*, The Commercial Appeal, July 22, 1990
- 1988 Fredric Koeppel, *Two Women Rate as New Masters*, The Commercial Appeal, April 17, *Eureka Painter Mary Sims: Unequaled, almost unknown*, Arkansas Gazette, April 15, 1988
- 1986 Donald La Badie, *Label her art 'Captivation'*, The Commercial Appeal, November 1, 1986
- 1983 Donald La Badie, *Weekend hopping with art, Mary Sims Solo at Clough Hanson Gallery*, The Commercial Appeal, November 18, 1983
- 1981 Margaret Arnold, *Portrait of An Arkansas Artist*, Arkansas Times Magazine March 1981, p. 52-60
- 1980 Donald La Badie, *Porcine Parody hogs Sims Exhibition*, The Commercial Appeal, October 31, 1980
- 1974 Guy Northrop, *Mary Sims, Fred and Friends Combine For A Show*, The Commercial Appeal, May 1, 1974 p. 14
- Audrey West, *Cinderless Cinderella Dusts Canvases With Magic Touch*, Memphis Press Scimitar, May 20, 1974
- 1973 Guy Northrop, *Mary Sims-Recent Paintings at Arkansas State University*, (catalog) Arkansas State University Gallery, Jonesboro, AR October, 1973

## professional

- 1968-72 Associate Professor: Painting/Printmaking, Rhodes College, Memphis
- 1996 20th Anniversary of Memphis in May poster
- 1997 Memphis Advertising Federation & St. Jude's Hospital, images for greeting cards
- 1993 Opera Memphis, Memphis, TN (sets and costume design for *Beauty and the Beast*)
- 1981 Memphis in May Poster - Egypt

## public collections

Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock  
 Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis  
 Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, TN  
 AutoZone, Memphis  
 Buckeye Cellulose, Memphis  
 Cook Industries, Memphis  
 Federal Express, Memphis  
 John Grisham, Oxford, MS  
 Kemper Collection, Kansas City  
 Life Mark, Houston  
 Mary Tyler Moore, Los Angeles  
 National Bank of Commerce, Memphis  
 nexAIR, Memphis  
 Burt Reynolds  
 North American Coal Company, Dallas  
 James Kirkwood, New York  
 Pacific Bell Telephone, San Francisco  
 Pacific Security Bank, Los Angeles  
 Promus Hotel Corporation Headquarters, Memphis  
 Rhodes College, Memphis  
 Seessel's, Memphis  
 First Tennessee Bank, Memphis  
 The Leadership Network, New York  
 The State of Tennessee, Nashville  
 Fleming Corporation, Tulsa

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