

KASPER CONTEMPORARY

TARA LEWIS



Enter At Your Own Risk
2022, Oil on linen
60 x 48 in / 152 x 122 cm
\$ 28,000

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American Venus
2021, Oil on linen
60 x 40 in / 152 x 102 cm
\$ 25,000

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Wrangler
2021, Oil on linen
36 x 30 in / 91 x 76 cm
\$ 14,000

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Swimmer
2021, Oil on linen
20 x 16 in / 51 x 41 cm
\$ 8,000

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Swimmers

Tara Lewis' new collection of paintings challenge conventional portraiture with unique focus on female agency and contemporary complexities of femininity. Signaled by popular culture, the figures embody artist-curated personas and roles. The paintings feature models that self-style with garments and props the artist provides at her studio. The portraits exude self-awareness, individuality, irreverence and satirical punch informed by expectations and stereotyping of gender roles.

Taking cues from pop history and borrowing concepts from films and characters such as *Jaws*, the Lone Ranger and Venus, Lewis' paintings weave a new narrative. The portraits are seasoned with generic wearables such as cowgirl hat, bikinis and bathing suits. The concept of 'female swimmer' is considered in each painting. Prompted by the idiom 'sink or swim', Lewis considered the opposite of 'to swim', which is 'to settle' or 'to sink'. Female swimmers, a double entendre for the body of work, celebrate the energy of female agency in a contemporary culture of revolving issues, stereotypes and expectations.

With a nod to *Venus di Milo* and Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*, Lewis' painting *American Venus* presents the female figure accessorized with candy cigarettes, the model's prep school ring and tattoos that offer a cultural zing. *Wrangler* explores the Lone Ranger character and presents a gender twist of the pulp and TV hero, emphasizing a blend of individuality and female confidence. *Enter at Your Own Risk* offers a bold dialogue, considering the model's direct gaze and her bathing suit flanked with the iconic *Jaws* poster. The intentionally placed rows of shark teeth at the crotch of the suit are apropos, potent, satirical and provocative, redefining femininity and sexual empowerment. The painting *Swimmer* radiates certainty and female-assurance, presenting wet hair, a biker choker and a peek of bikini styling.

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TARA LEWIS

b. 1970 - Lives and works in New York, NY

EDUCATION

1995 M.A.T. in Visual Studies, Tufts University & School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

1995 B.A. in Studio Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 Role Modeling: Tara Lewis x Brooke Shields, Louis K. Meisel Gallery, New York, NY

2020 Hell Yes, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY

Too Cool for School, Blackbird Gallery, New York, NY

2011 Some Girls, Conant Gallery, Lawrence Academy, Groton, MA

2004 Double Feature, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH

2002 True Grit, Firehouse Gallery, Newburyport, MA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022 Art Market Hamptons, Kasper Contemporary, Water Mill, NY

The Art Sale: Juried Benefit Exhibition, Tufts University & SMFA, Grossman Gallery, Boston, MA

The Patriot, O'Flaherty's, New York, NY

2021 *So Much has Happened since Then*, Salomon Contemporary, Brooklyn, New York

Les Femmes, Tethy's Art, Southampton, New York

2020 Ladies of Lyons Wier Gallery, Lyons Wier Gallery, New York, NY

Intersect Aspen, Lyons Wier Gallery, Aspen, CO

Autumn Benefit Art Auction, The Watermill Center, Water Mill, New York

Present 3, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH

2019 On Guard NY, LES Storefront Project Kasia Kay Art Projects, New York, NY

Most Likely, NOMO SoHo Curatorial Partnership Installation, New York, NY

RxArt Party, RxArt & Paddle 8 Benefit Auction, New York, NY

Tabula Rasa, The Watermill Center 26th Summer Art Benefit, Water Mill, New York

IRL: Investigating Reality, The Untitled Space, New York, NY

Articulate, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH

Impact, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

2018 *Metamorphosis: MILLY x Tara Lewis, SS/19 Collaboration, NYFW at Spring Studios, New York, NY*

ArtCrush, Aspen Art Museum & Sotheby's Art Auction & Gala, Aspen CO

2017 Small Works, Trestle Gallery curated by Bill Carroll, Brooklyn, New York

She Inspires, The Untitled Space, New York, NY

Et Tu, Art Brute, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

2016 *Indy 500 & Beyond*, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH

2015 *Print Facets: 6 Centuries of Printmakers*, Michelman Fine Art, New York, NY

2014 *Self-Made*, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH

2012 *PaperView*, Manhattan Print Center, New York, NY

2011 *Seven-Up*, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH

NurtureART Juried Benefit Auction, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY

In Portrait, Blank Space Gallery, New York, NY

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Portraits Now, Black Pop Contemporary, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dual, Gershwin Hotel, New York, NY
ReView, Museum of Art, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
2010 NY Art Now, New York LES Studio Gallery, New York, NY
Get it on Paper, PlaySpace Projects in Tribeca, New York, NY
2009 Hey, Hot Shot!, Jen Bekman Projects, New York, NY
Rare Pleasures, Parlor Gallery, Asbury Park, NJ
2007 Art x 7: New Works, Lamont Gallery, Phillips Exeter Academy, NH
Momentum II, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, ME

SELECTED PRESS

Artnet News, *'I Cold-Called Her': Brooke Shields on Why She Rang Up an Emerging Artist and Volunteered to Model for Her Latest Work*' by Katie White
Der Spiegel, *'Tara Lewis, Brooke Shields Muse Mit Stulpin'*
ArtMaze Mag, *Issue #24*, curated by Harper Levine, Harper's New York, published in London, UK
Whitewall, *'Tara Lewis and the Teens: Art That Talks Back'* by Eliza Jordan
The Jealous Curator, *'Trophies & Tiaras'*, Art For Your Ears Podcast Episode #169 by Danielle Krysa
Whitewall, *'Milly Gets Artsy with Tara Lewis SS19'* by Eliza Jordan
Galerie, *'2018 ArtCrush: Artist Rashid Johnson Takes a Hike and Wins and Aspen Art Award'* by Janelle Zara
Surface, *'Quarantine Culture: 6 Ways to Experience Art Without Leaving Your Home'*
Artnet News, *'Editor's Picks: 19 Things Not to Miss in New York's Art World This Week'* by Sarah Cascone
Cultured, *'Our 2018 Art Crush Diary'* by
Quiet Lunch, *'Last Days of 'Hell Yes!' by Tara Lewis at Lyons Wier Gallery'* by Akeem Duncan
Fine Art Connoisseur, *'Playful Portraits with Timeless Resonance'*
The Jealous Curator, *'Review of Hell Yes! Solo Exhibition'* by Danielle Krysa
Lodown Magazine, *'Tara Lewis: Hell Yes!'*
Artspeak, *'Hell Yes! Tara Lewis, Lyons Wier Gallery'*
Paper City, *'Fashion Designer's Ha Ha Moment Goes Beyond the Michelle Obama Love'* by Clifford Pugh
Between The Lines: A Coloring Book by Contemporary Artists, Volume 7, RxArt, New York, NY
New York Magazine, *'This Art Exhibition is Raising Money for Women to Run for Office'* by Hyunjee Lee
Creators x VICE, *'SHE INSPORES' at a Massive Exhibition of Artists'* by Abby Ronner
ELLE, *'60 Powerful Women Art On Show 'She Inspires'*
Women's Wear Daily, *'The Untitled Space Gallery Launches Latest Exhibit 'She Inspires'* by Anna Devito
VICE, *'60 Contemporary Artists Made Works to Honor Inspiring Women'* by Nathaniel Ainley
Five Centuries of Printmakers Catalogue published by Michelman Fine Art, New York, NY, 2014
Los Angeles Review of Books, *Summer Issue '13. Diptychs Photo Spread*
ART+AUCTION Blouin ArtInfo, *'Inside Avenues'* by Julia Halperin 6/12
Jen Bekman Projects, *"Hey Hot Shot!" Critical Review*
Red Bank Orbit, *'Always a Pleasure' Art Review of Parlor Gallery's 'Rare Pleasures' Exhibition*
Artscope Magazine, *"Cover Out Takes"* by Christine Michaud
artMatters, SMFA Juried Exhibition-In-Print, Boston MA

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HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

2019 RxArt's Between the Lines: A Coloring Book by Contemporary Artists, Volume 7, New York, NY

2018 Artist Advancement Grant Finalist, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

2013 New Prints Autumn Juror, International Print Center of New York, NY

2012 Sol LeWitt Wall Drawing Installation Team, Pace Gallery & Estate of Sol LeWitt, New York, NY

2003 Artist Advancement Grant Finalist, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

1993 Hearst Grant, Tufts University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences and SMFA, Boston, MA

1990 Robert Hooper Talent Grant, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH