

Steven Spazuk

Artist Statement

For the past 10 years, I have developed and perfected a unique technique that allows me to use the flame of a candle or the flame of a torch as a pencil to create my paintings with trails of soot. Using various tools, I intuitively sculpt the plumes of soot left behind in response to the shapes that appear on the canvas.

Spontaneity and chance are the heart and soul of my creative process. I do not censor. I do not direct. I open myself to the experience. This in-the-moment creative practice coupled with the fluidity of the soot, creates a torrent of images, shadows and light. Fuelled by the quest of a perfect shape that has yet to materialize, I concentrate in a meditative act and surrender to capture the immediacy of the moment on canvas.

The human body fascinates me. Bodies in a perpetual metamorphosis are the language with which I express my thoughts on the human condition: emotions, opinions, stories that are born of my uncensored psyche. I often work piece by piece, collecting a multitude of unique elements that I assemble into mosaics. Entities that, once grouped together, afford a different meaning and provide a new perspective that is both novel and complementary. I see fragments of things, events, people, as a powerful metaphor of modern life and, even more so, of the way we perceive things through our senses and our minds. My work expresses how every one of us is a constituent fragment of the human community.

Serendipitously, I am now encountering the reverse side of the mosaic. I am interested in the deconstruction of prescribed shapes and contours and an eclectic approach to a compilation of ideas which, like the flame of my candle, will lead me to more fortuity in the creation of my art.

Steven Spazuk

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Education

1983 B.F.A. in Visual Arts, Université Laval, Québec

Solo exhibitions / Expositions personnelles

2010 Vrats, Hotel Le Méridien, Montréal, Canada.
2010 SPAZUK, Galerie 2M2, Montréal, Canada.
2008 *Hasard/Bazar*, Galerie d'art Quartier Libre, Montréal, Canada.
2007 Projek Room, 26 dessins pour le Rwanda, Montréal, Canada
2006 Projek Room, Montréal, Canada
2006 *Impromptu*, Galerie d'art Quartier Libre, Montréal, Canada.
2005 *Spazuk*, Galerie Twenty-Four, Berlin, Germany.
2003 Galerie SAS, Montréal, Canada.
2002 Galerie SAS, Montréal, Canada.
2002 *Trace, ou présence d'absence*, Galerie Montcalm, Hull, Canada.
2001 Galerie SAS, Montréal, Canada.
2000 *Spazuk expo* Galerie TM, Montréal, Canada.
1994 *Spazuk en exergue*, Galerie 55 Prince, Montréal, Canada

Group exhibitions / Expositions collectives

2010 FIRE, Montréal, Canada
2010 La Foire d'art Contemporain de St-Lambert, Montréal, Canada
2009 Art Biennale Internazionale Chianciano, Italy (Painting-Third place)
2007 Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea, Florence, Italy (Mixed media-Fourth place)
2005 Galerie d'art Quartier Libre, Montréal, Canada.
2003 Galerie SAS, Montréal, Canada.
2002 Galerie SAS, Montréal, Canada.
2001 *Tendances Contemporaines* Galerie TM, Montréal, Canada.
2000 Galerie TM, Montréal, Canada.
2000 *PassART 2000*, Rouin, Canada
2000 *Stratford 2000*, Galerie Stratford, Canada
1996 *LOVE*, Archives Galerie Toronto, Canada
1994 *Spazuk en exergue*, Galerie 55 Prince, Montréal, Canada

Guest Artist / Artiste invité

2009 Guest speaker at Biennale Internazionale di Chianciano, Italy
2009 Artiste invité, Centre Eaton Montreal, Nuits Blanches de Montréal
2008 EXPRESSION sur TV5
2008 Mondial Choral, murale "Milles empreintes de choristes".
2006 Exklusiv, invited artist, La fondation du Maire, Montréal, Canada
2002 Festival « Off-Court » Trouville sur mer, France
2002 *Save Tibet*, Paris, France
1997 *De soleil, de terre et d'eau/ A Canadian Allegory*, Concepteur d'images, APEC 97, Vancouver, Canada

Critiques and Articles

MacKAY, Gillian, « Pairing at Archive », The Globe and Mail, Saturday, February 7, 1998
BERNIER, Robert, « Steven Spazuk, L'art du feu », Couverture Parcours l'informateur des arts, Printemps 2003 vol.9 numéro 1
BERNIER, Robert, « Empreintes », Parcours l'informateur des arts, Printemps 2003 vol.9 numéro 1, p 9-10
LAWRENCE, Gary, « De la suie dans les idées », Plaisir de Vivre, Vol.15 no 5, p 62 à 69.
RICHARD, Suzanne, « Spazuk l'illuminé », Voir, Octobre 2002 vol.02 numéro 41.
BOUCHARD, Claude, « Je vis, donc je suie », LeDroit, 02-11-02, p.A-2
VILLENEUVE, Paul, « J'y suie, j'y reste », Le Journal de Montréal, Samedi 17 mai 2003, p 64
BERLINER ABENDBLATT, « Kunst und Exorzismus bei Nacht », Berliner Abendblatt, 4 mai 2005, vol.15 no 18
MICHEL LOPEZ, « Creation de suie et de hasard », YU design, trends, people, issue 6-Fall 2008
SPAZUK, Steven, MADDEN Amy, "SPAZUK", auto-édition 2010