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Johnny Taylor

American

Born in Helena, Arkansas, Johnny Taylor grew up in and around Memphis, Tennessee. Early inspirations were MAD Magazine, Star Wars, and the rock band KISS. When he entered school, Johnny drew variations of these subjects ad infinitum. This interest in drawing led to a job producing a weekly comic strip at age 10. Thus encouraged, the young cartoonist determined that he would always make art.

Taylor began painting as a student at the University of Memphis (BFA, Art History, 1996). On New Year's Eve of 1992, he made a resolution to paint three paintings a day, every day, for the entire year. By the end of 1993, Taylor had begun exhibiting the fruits of his labor. Showing paintings regularly ever since, he has not strayed far from the hard-edged cartoon style that marked his initial efforts. Primarily painted in acrylics with screen printed and stenciled elements, Taylor's output has tapered somewhat from his earlier, dizzyingly prolific period. Johnny Taylor's paintings may be found in galleries in Austin, Boston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Memphis and Zürich.

Johnny Taylor currently resides in Los Angeles, CA.

Statement

My paintings explore the things we look at each day without seeing. Though everything is game imagery-wise, I am drawn to advertising images and glyphs, the visual shorthand of contemporary culture.

Bright colored blocks compose my acrylic and mixed media paintings. I enjoy the look and feel of loose, graffiti-like marks, text, and "noise" against these vividly hued planes. Usually I paint with layers, with each new layer showing a bit of the one beneath, either by transparency, the masking of certain areas, or by a scraping away of recent layers. Often this process yields unexpected colors and forms.

My fine art influences include Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Stuart Davis, Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat. I'm also influenced by the regional art of my native American South, especially by Southern folk artists' use of text as both a thematic and decorative element. The Quilts of Gee's Bend are a key influence. I also draw inspiration from graffiti art, specifically the stylized, single gesture marks of graffiti tagging.

In a sense my painting's are post-modern landscapes- I paint what I see. A painting's composition may derive from an underpass' blocky, irregular patchwork of painted-over graffiti. Another piece's umber and vermillion color scheme may be inspired by a business sign I've seen on a street that I travel regularly.

Exhibitions

"Square Pegs"

A specially curated group exhibit celebrating Parlor Gallery's 10th anniversary.

Parlor Gallery | 717 Cookman Ave. | Ashbury Park, NJ

February 9- March 25, 2019

Opening Reception Saturday, February 9, 2019 7-11pm

"Wish I Might"

A group show featuring Aaron Whisner, Anthony Manal Castro, Derek Gores, Hellbent, Johnny Taylor, Katy Hirschfeld, Ken Flewellyn, Kerry Smith, Melody Postma, Mike Shine, Rodrigo Valles

Parlor Gallery | 717 Cookman Ave. | Ashbury Park, NJ

May 5- June 11, 2018

Opening Reception Saturday, May 5, 7-11pm

"Bon Voyage: The Art of Travel and Leisure"

CODA Gallery | 73400 El Paseo, Suite B-1 | Palm Desert CA 92260

November 4- 25, 2018

Opening Reception Friday, May 4, 5-8pm

"NEW ARTISTS GROUP SHOW"

CODA Gallery | 73400 El Paseo, Suite B-1 | Palm Desert CA 92260

November 3- 24, 2017

Opening Reception Friday, November 3, 5-8pm

"LALUZAPALOOZA 2017"

31st Annual Group Show

La Luz de Jesus Gallery | 4633 Hollywood Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA

March 3- April 2, 2017

Opening Reception Friday, March 3, 8-11pm

"Flight Patterns"

Group show featuring Dani Dodge, Andy Bauch, Osceola Refetoff, Johnny Taylor + others.

ArtShare L.A. | 801 E. 4th Place | Los Angeles, CA 90013

July 6- July 23, 2016

Opening reception: Saturday, July 9, 2016. 7-10pm

"Art Hamptons Fair"

Bridgehampton, NY

Private Preview Thursday, June 23, 6:30-9pm

June 23 - June 26, 2016

"Affordable Art Fair Hong Kong"

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Private Preview Wednesday, May 12, 3pm – 10pm

May 12 - May 15, 2016

"Spring"

Group show featuring Stephanie Brody-Lederman, Sammy Peters, Bill Gingles, Scott Bergey, Johnny Taylor and others.

Jay Etkin Gallery | 942 S. Cooper St | Memphis TN 38104

Opening Reception Friday, March 11, 2016 6-9pm.

"March Splash"

Solo Show

Ann Connelly Fine Art | 4221 Perkins Rd. | Baton Rouge, LA 70808

March 7-25 2016

"Love Art Fair Toronto"

Heritage Court, Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON

Opening Reception Thursday, April 16

April 16-19 2015

"Snarky Pop"

Group show featuring Laysa Issam Al Fannan, Andy Bauch, Lisa Mansy, Johnny Taylor + others.

ArtShare L.A. | 801 E. 4th Place | Los Angeles, CA 90013

March 25- April 11, 2015

Opening reception: Saturday, March 28 2015. 7-10pm

"Palm Springs Fine Art Fair"

Palm Springs Convention Center, Oasis 2 | 277 North Avenida Caballeros | Palm Springs, CA

February 12-15, 2015

Opening Night Preview Party, Thursday, February 12, 2015 | 6pm - 9:30pm

"ICONS"

A group show featuring Mark Andrew Allen, Max Steven Grossman, Holly Manneck & Johnny Taylor.

Jules Place | 1200 Washington Street #204 | Boston, MA 02118

Opening Reception Thursday, March 5, 2015 6-8pm.

"Winter Group Show"

Group show featuring COPE2, Clara Fialho, Johnny Taylor, Casey Watson

AzArt | 617 W 27th St | NYC 10001

December 11th- January 3rd 2015

"POP MOMENTUM"

A group show featuring Johnny Taylor, Gerdine Duijsens, Gerhard Voelkle, Frankie Alfonso, and Ashleigh Sumner.

Artspace Warehouse | 7354 Beverly Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA

Saturday, July 19, 2014, 6:30-8:30pm

"Inauguration"

New works by Johnny Taylor
AzArt | 617 W 27th St | NYC 10001
Opening Reception Thursday, February 20, 2014 6-9pm. Show runs until March 15.

"Wonderland"

A group show featuring Michael Dickter, Jylian Gustlin, Amy Maas & Johnny Taylor.
Jules Place | 1200 Washington Street #204 | Boston, MA 02118
Opening Reception Thursday, January 23, 2014 5-7pm.

"Metro"

A group show featuring Sharon Dowell, Charles Walker, and Johnny Taylor.
Gallery Seventeen | 17 West North Street First Floor | Greenville, SC 29609
November 8th- December 6th, 2013

"Summer Group Show"

A group show featuring Bill Barminski, Victor Perez Maldonado, Peter Gronquist, Cat Cult, Johnny Taylor & others.
Parlor Gallery | 717 Cookman Ave. | Ashbury Park, NJ
Opening Reception Saturday, August 24, 7pm

"Urban Discovery"

A group show featuring Colleen Sandland, Carl Smith, Ashleigh Sumner, Johnny Taylor, Clara Berta, Steven Michael O'Connor and other gallery artists.
Artspace Warehouse | 7354 Beverly Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA
Thursday, April 19, 2012, 5-8pm

"Aerial"

A group show featuring Sabre Esler, Christy Kinard, John Schuyler & Johnny Taylor.
Jules Place | 1200 Washington Street #204 | Boston, MA 02118
Opening Reception Thursday, March 8 6-8pm.

"Local Color"

A group show featuring Scott Albrecht, Robert Ryan, Daniel Belardinelli, Molly Johnson, Johnny Taylor & others.
Parlor Gallery | 717 Cookman Ave. | Ashbury Park, NJ
Opening Reception Saturday, December 17, 7pm

"LA-Zurich"

A group show featuring Hilary Bond, Lucinda Luvaas, Courtney Raney & Johnny Taylor
Kunstwarenhaus | Stockerstrasse 11 | CH-8002 Zurich
Opening Reception Thursday, December 8, 6pm

"Atomic Vision"

A group show featuring Justin West, Ryan Cronin & Johnny Taylor
Tria Gallery | 531 West 25th Street, Ground Floor #5 | NYC 10001
Opening Reception Thursday, December 1, 6-8pm

"COLORS"

A group show featuring Hanna Cousins, Johnny Taylor, Raul de la Torre and other gallery artists.
Artspace Warehouse | 7354 Beverly Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA
Opening Reception Wednesday, September 21, 7-9pm

"Everything But the Kitschen Sync"

Annual Group Show Volume 14
La Luz de Jesus Gallery | 4633 Hollywood Blvd. | Los Angeles, CA
Opening Reception Friday, March 4, 8-11pm

"Made Out Of Beautiful (Pop/UnPop)"

A group show featuring artists Michele Senesi, Mark Mothersbaugh, Johnny Taylor and others.
Parlor Gallery | 717 Cookman Ave. | Ashbury Park, NJ
July 3 thru August 9, 2010

"Johnny Taylor Art Show at FLEA"

Solo Show
FLEA Store | 112 West 6th St. | Los Angeles, CA
September 10, 2009 thru Jan 10, 2010

"Little Exaltations"

Gerard Malanga, Polixeni Papapetrou, William S Stone, Johnny Taylor and others.
Deffebach Gallery | 135 Warren St | Hudson, NY
Dec 12, 2008 thru January 30, 2009

"Everything In The World Has Changed"

New paintings by Johnny Taylor
Yard Dog Gallery | 106 East San Antonio St | Marfa, TX
Oct 11 thru Nov 9, 2008

"Art Outside 2008 (AO/08)"

A community-based temporary art show.
Austin Enchanted Forest | Austin, TX
March 6th thru 16th, 2008

"Pop Art NOW"

Art by Stacy Hawkinson, David Koch & Johnny Taylor
Matrix Fine Art | Albuquerque, NM
January 4 thru 28, 2008

"Twenty Seven"

New paintings by Johnny Taylor
Jay Etkin Gallery | 409 So. Main | Memphis, TN
April 27 thru May 22, 2007

Arts At The Airport/ Flying Solo Exhibit

Paintings by Johnny Taylor
Nashville International Airport
December 8, 2006-March 4, 2007

"Present Perfect"

Paintings by Johnny Taylor
Vüe Gallery | Memphis, TN
Spring 2006

"Texas Medicine"

New paintings by Johnny Taylor
Jay Etkin Gallery | 409 So. Main | Memphis, TN
Summer 2005

Artwork Appears in

Major Crimes
A & E's Vacation Rental Potential
The Good Wife