

I DON'T KNOW: WAYNE WHITE

JANUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 8, 2020

OPENING RECEPTION: JANUARY 9, 6-8PM



Finally Got There Wasn't So Great, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
36 x 48 inches

Joshua Liner Gallery is thrilled to announce Wayne White's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, *I DON'T KNOW*. The Los Angeles based artist will present new word paintings that feature hand painted backgrounds, laser cut word reliefs, and an oversized kinetic puppet. *I DON'T KNOW* will open on January 9 and remain on view through February 8, 2020. The artist will attend the opening reception.

Over the past thirty-five years, Wayne White has infused humor into all facets of his creative career as an artist, art director, illustrator, and puppeteer. As the artist states, "Humor is underrated. It's seen lesser than drama, but it's more important. Humor is probably our most sacred quality. Because without it, we're dead." In the 2000s, White merged his adoration for history and humor by integrating anachronistic text and phrases onto offset vintage lithographs, playfully incorporating the lettering into bucolic landscapes and seascapes. Aptly named word paintings, this body of work utilizes text to address vanity, ego, and the artist's memories of the South. As White explains, "The found landscape prints are used in the spirit of found object collage. They are empty stages for my typographic dramas. They are the American background."

I DON'T KNOW showcases White's recent word paintings, which mark a new direction for this beloved series. As framed vintage lithographs get more difficult to source, White is starting to adapt his practice to accommodate this shortage by making word paintings entirely by hand. Creating his own backgrounds allows White to explore specific subjects and gives him total control with how the text and background interact with one another. In 2019, the artist started creating acrylic on canvas and oil on canvas cloudscapes reminiscent of John Constable and Maxfield Parrish, adding text ovetop ethereal sunsets. These canvases continue to reflect White's sardonic wit, while simultaneously revealing his vulnerable side, evident in his conscious decision to adorn the hand painted backgrounds of sunsets with text that reads "Finally Got There Wasn't So Great" and "I DON'T KNOW," adding a particularly somber tone to the exhibition.

Continuing with the sky theme, *I DON'T KNOW* also includes a ten-foot long cardboard effigy of White suspended from the ceiling of the back gallery. Surrounded by sky blue walls, this larger than life puppet flaps his arms, as if he is flying through the air.

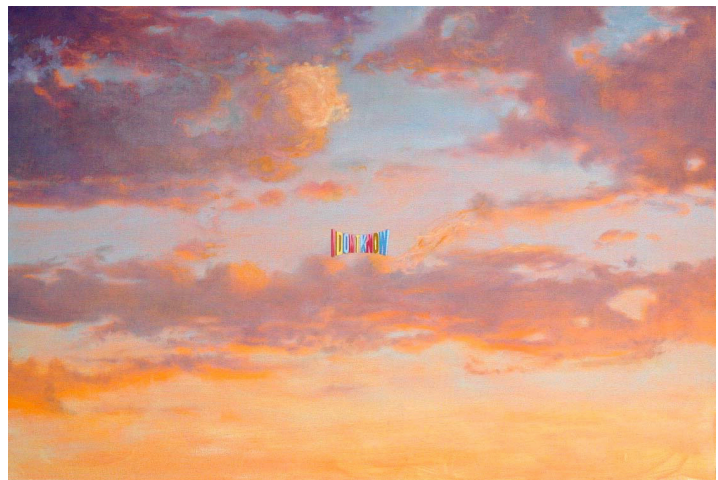
Born in 1957 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Wayne White currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California. Many are familiar with White's work from the iconic 1980s television show *Pee-wee's Playhouse*, earning the artist three Emmy Awards for production design. White is also noted for his work on music videos, such as, Peter Gabriel's "Big Time" and The Smashing Pumpkins' "Tonight, Tonight." More recently, his extensive career was chronicled in the 2012 feature-length documentary, *Beauty is Embarrassing*, directed by Neil Berkeley. In 2013, following the success of the documentary, White presented "You're Supposed to Act All Impressed," a *TED Talk* on his work and career as a fine artist. The artist's work is included in numerous public institutions and esteemed collections, such as The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY; Bunker Artspace, The Collection of Beth Rudin DeWoody, Palm Beach, FL; Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville, TN; The Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit, MI; Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA; The Progressive Art Collection, Mayfield Village, OH; and Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA.

Selected solo exhibitions include *Wayne White: Hoozythinkyiz?*, Hatch Show Print, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Nashville, TN (2018); *I Took The Machine Apart But Could Not Put It Back Together*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, NY (2018); *Monitorium*, Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Virginia Beach, VA (2017-2018); *Thrill after Thrill* (30 year retrospective), Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga, TN (2017); *I'm Having A Dialogue with the Universe, and You're Just Sitting There*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, NY (2016); *Art is Supposed to Hypnotize You or Something*, Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, FL (2015); *Invisible Ruler*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, NY (2014); *FOE*, York College, York, PA (2014); *I Took Off Work And Came All The Way Down Here: The Art of Wayne White*, artspace, Shreveport, LA (2014); *HALO AMOK*, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City, OK (2013); *Spark in the Void*, Packer Schopf Gallery, Chicago, IL (2012); *BIG LICK BOOM*, Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA (2012); *I Say A Lot Of Things*, Marty Walker Gallery, Dallas, TX (2012); *Big Llectric Fan to Keep Me Cool While I Sleep*, Rice University, Houston, TX (2009); *I'm Lost in a Spaceship Mamma*, Clementine Gallery, New York, NY (2006).

For press inquiries, please contact Christopher Borschel at chris@joshualinergallery.com



The Fuck, 2019
Acrylic on canvas
24 x 30 inches



I DON'T KNOW, 2019
Oil on canvas
24 x 36 inches

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday
11 - 6 PM

Address
540 West 28th Street
New York, NY 10001

P (212) 244-7415
F (212) 244-7416

Email
info@joshualinergallery.com
