

Spencer Lai

Born 1991, Malaysia. Lives and works in Naarm/Melbourne

Education

2014 Bachelor of Fine Art (Honours), Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne

2010-14 Bachelor of Fine Art, RMIT University, Melbourne

Solo Exhibitions

2025

MAY Art Fair, Neon Parc, Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland, New Zealand

Impressions, Mackintosh Lane, London

2024

Modes, Neon Parc, Melbourne

2023

Let us be silent so that we may hear the whisper of God: strained tremors of life rise from dark billows of muteness as a modern wind soars beneath engineered wings, Neon Parc, Melbourne

He has left us alone but sometimes shafts of light sometimes grace the corner of our rooms: Lotus Eaters, Asbestos, Melbourne

2022

Academy for the Sensitive Arts, Theta, New York

Oriental Painting., Neon Parc, Melbourne

A Patience Game (with Jürgen Baumann), Holden Garage, Berlin

Up the hill in my city shoes (with Allan Rand), Air-BnB location, Melbourne

2021

buddhaminefield., Ge Hinnom Small Group Love, London

Bitch Biscuit (with Victoria Todorov), Bossy's Gallery, Melbourne

2018

Air becomes metallic scented as anger is emitted, a bounding animal halts as blood in crimson unfurls in still waterhole, Kimberly-Klark, New York

A smile becomes a grimace as the world spins -- it is funny, the sound of laughter – it is like god's hands on the shoulders of a troubled world, Bus Projects, Melbourne

hushed pupils, Fort Delta, Melbourne

2017

Contaminant, figures, Fort Delta, Melbourne

2016

LENTO VIOLENTO, TCB, Melbourne

B E AT P E ACE, lovely, lovely, Fort Delta, Melbourne

2015

youth, born at brunch, George Paton Gallery, Melbourne

2014

LENTO VIOLENTO, TCB, Melbourne

B E AT P E ACE, lovely, lovely, Fort Delta, Melbourne

2012

Pleasure Structures, Contemporary Lifestyles, c3 Contemporary, Melbourne

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026

XX, Neon Parc, Melbourne

2025

Spring1883, Windsor Hotel, Naarm/Melbourne

2024

The Possibilities are Immense: Fifty Years of the George Paton Gallery, George Paton Gallery, Melbourne

All Good Things, Hulus, Oslo

At Home with Painting, School of Art Gallery, Sydney

2023

Backwash, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra

South Yarra Grand Opening, Neon Parc

Figuring Ground, Grafton Regional Gallery, New South Wales

Menagerié, Asbestos, Melbourne

2022

You're Finally Awake!, Theta, New York

The body speaks before it even talks, 99%, Melbourne

Comfort the Afflicted, Envy, Wellington

More Love, Asbestos, Melbourne

Kleptothermy, Cool Change Contemporary, Perth

2021

White Lillies, Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York

All worlds are flat, Blindside, Melbourne

2020

Improvements & Reproductions, West Space, Melbourne

1991, Neon Parc, Melbourne

there's no art in heaven, Mejia, Melbourne

MORANGOS COM AÇÚCAR, A Maior, Portugal

2019

No Righteous Left Among The Living, COMA Gallery, Sydney

Carny, Neon Parc, Melbourne

Untitled, Low Standards, Oslo

2018

On the Homefront, Lubov, New York

Not titled, Sydney Sydney, Sydney

The drawing is simply not there, West Space, Melbourne

There is a pain - so utter, Gertrude Glasshouse, Melbourne

Head over Heels, OnCurating Project Space, Zurich

Auto Body Works, Arts Project Australia, Melbourne

2017

WE COLLAPSE, WE BUILD NEW CITIES, Australian National Capital Artists, Canberra

I am a branch floating on a swollen river after the rain, Gertrude Contemporary

2016

Dress Rehearsal (with Rare Candy/Centre for Style), 9th Berlin Biennale, Berlin

AFFIDAVIT VITO ACCONCI, Gertrude Glasshouse, Melbourne

TarraWarra Biennale: Endless Circulation (with Jake Swinson, Jessie Kiely, Fayen d'Evie and Matthew Linde), TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria

To Wound The Autumnal City, Punk Cafe, Melbourne

2015

the smell of an oily rag, Fort Delta, Melbourne
CABIN FEVER CREATURE, off-site location, Melbourne

2014

Draw backs, Fort Delta, Melbourne
PROUD 2014, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Melbourne

Collections

Artbank
Private collections in Australia and the United States of America

Bibliography

Ramirez, Diego; "Profile: Spencer Lai", *Art Collector*, Issue 105, July-September, 2023
Carey, Brainard; "Interview with Spencer Lai", *Yale University Radio*, 2 November, 2022
Fateman, Joanna; "You're Finally Awake!", *New Yorker*, 9 February, 2022
Schmidt, Audrey; "More Love", *Memo Review*, 18 June, 2022
Schmidt, Audrey; "In Costume", *Memo Review*, 16 November, 2019
Schmidt, Audrey; "Carny", *Memo Review*, 16 February, 2019
Kubler, Alison; "Forecast: Spencer Lai", *Vault Magazine Issue 23*, 30 July, 2018
Plagne, Francis; "Spencer Lai: A smiles forms into a grimace [...]", *Memo Review*, 17 November, 2018
Winata, Amelia; "Critic's Choice", *Australian Art Collector*, April-June, 2018
Winata, Amelia; "Spencer Lai: Contaminant, figures", *Memo Review*, 22 July, 2018
Schmidt, Audrey; "Banquet at the Biennial", *Art and Australia*, 16 November, 2016

Grants and Awards

2021

Australian Council for the Arts, Arts Projects for Individuals and Groups
Sustaining Creative Workers, Creative Victoria

2020

City of Melbourne Quick Response (COVID-19), City of Melbourne
Sustaining Creative Workers, Creative Victoria

2014

George Paton Gallery Award recipient