

MICHEL SOSKINE INC.

JOEL-PETER WITKIN

1939, Brooklyn, New York, USA.

Lives and works in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA.

Joel-Peter Witkin was born on September 13, 1939 in Brooklyn, New York, to a Jewish father and a Roman Catholic mother and has a twin brother, Jerome Witkin, who is a well-known painter. Witkin's parents were unable to transcend their religious differences and divorced while he was still young. Their mother raised Joel-Peter and his twin brother in a deeply religious atmosphere. He attended grammar school at Saint Cecelia's in Brooklyn and went on to Grover Cleveland High School.

Witkin bought his first camera in the mid-1950s and taught himself the fundamentals of camera use. Even his first photographs were unusual, depicting the many unsettling experiences of his childhood. His very first photograph portrayed a rabbi who claimed to have spoken to God. At the request of his brother, Witkin later took his camera to the Coney Island freak show. Jerome wanted the photographs for his own unique paintings.

Joel-Peter Witkin was drafted into the army in 1961. In order to have some control over his assignment, Witkin enlisted in the army for three years as a combat photographer. His assignments included recording on film the bodies of soldiers who had committed suicide or died in training accidents.

In 1967 Witkin decided to work as a freelance photographer and became City Walls Inc. official photographer. Following his army service, Witkin attended Cooper Union in New York and received his B.F.A. in 1974. During this same period, Columbia University awarded Witkin a fellowship in poetry. Witkin completed his graduate studies in photography and art history at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, receiving his M.A. in 1976 and his M.F.A. in 1981.

Witkin claims that his vision and sensibility were initiated by an episode he witnessed when he was just a small child, a car accident that occurred in front of his house in which a young girl was decapitated:

‘It happened on a Sunday when my mother was escorting my twin brother and me down the steps of the tenement where we lived. We were going to church. While walking down the hallway

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to the entrance of the building, we heard an incredible crash mixed with screaming and cries for help. The accident involved three cars, all with families in them. Somehow, in the confusion, I was no longer holding my mother's hand. At the place where I stood at the curb, I could see something rolling from one of the overturned cars. It stopped at the curb where I stood. It was the head of a little girl. I bent down to touch the face, to speak to it - but before I could touch it someone carried me away.'

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2016

Michel Soskine Inc., Madrid (Spain).

2015

Akron Museum of Art, Akron, Ohio (USA).

2012

'Enfer ou Ciel', Bibliothèque Nationale de France (French National Library), Paris (France).

'Oeuvres récentes', Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

2010

1000 Eventi Gallery, Milan (Italy).

Minshar School of Art, Tel Aviv (Israel).

2009

Nordic Light Festival, Kristiansund (Norway).

Itaù Cultural Festival, Sao Paolo (Brazil).

2008

Bruce Silverstein, New York (USA).

Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago (USA).

Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan (Italy).

2007

'Joel-Peter Witkin', Palazzo Mediceo, Seravezza (Italy).

Galleria Ca di Fra, Milan (Italy).

'Human Kind', Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

'Les Relations de Monsieur Wierz', Musée Rops, Maison de la Culture, Namur (Belgium).

2006

'Oeuvres récentes', Le Café Français, Brussels (Belgium).

'Oeuvres récentes', Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (France).

'Oeuvres récentes', Espace Jules Valles, Saint Martin d'Hères (France).

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2005

'Compassionate Beauty', Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago (USA).

'Heart beats dust', Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles (USA).

'Heart beats dust', Moscow House of Photography, Moscow (Russia).

'Compassionate Beauty', Gary Tatintsian Gallery, Moscow (Russia).

2004

'Heart Beats Dust', Ricco Maresca Gallery, New York (USA).

'Heart Beats Dust', Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

Clave Gallery, Murcia (Spain).

2003

Juana de Aizpuru Gallery, Madrid (Spain).

Le Garage Gallery, Toulouse (France).

Photo Espana Festival, Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid (Spain).

2002

'Joel-Peter Witkin, Compassionate Beauty', Stadtmuseum, Jena (Germany).

Infinito Gallery, Turin (Italy).

Ricco Maresca Gallery, New York (USA).

'Mystery of Presence', Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

2001

'In and Out Of Life, Joel-Peter Witkin', Art Concern Gallery, Courtrai (Belgium).

2000

Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

'Witkin, disciple et maître', Patrimoine Photographique, Hôtel Sully, Paris (France).

Centre d'Art, Pärno (Estonie).

Centre for photography, Lisbon (Portugal).

Hellenic Union, Athens (Greece).

1999

Santa Fe Art Museum, Santa Fe (USA).

Camera Work Gallery, Berlin (Germany).

Slovenska Madrona Gallery, Bratislava (Slovenia).

Pace Wildenstein Gallery, Tokyo (Japan).

1998

Lege Ruimte Gallery, Bruges (Belgium).

Cultuur Centrum, Bruges (Belgium).

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Hanlim Museum, Seoul (Korea).

1997

Pace Wildenstein MacGill, New York (USA).

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles (USA).

Pace Wildenstein, Los Angeles (USA).

Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

Foto Massan, Goteborg (Sweden).

Objekte Gallery, Munich (Germany).

1996

David Floria Gallery, Aspen Colorado (USA).

Megan Fox Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico (USA).

Fototology Gallery, Milan (Italy).

Encontros de Fotografia Coimbra (Portugal).

Les Rencontres d'Arles, Arles (France).

1995

Salomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (USA).

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York (USA).

Galerie Baudoin Lebon, Paris (France).

Museo d'Arte Contemporaneo, Rivoli (Italy).

Stills Gallery, Edinburg (Scotland).

Interkamera, Prague (Czech Republic).

1994

De La Tour Gallery, Basel (Switzerland).

La Tour Gallery, Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Mokka Gallery, Reykjavik (Iceland).

1993

Cahors Museum, Cahors (France).

De La Tour Gallery, Basel (Switzerland).

Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York (USA).

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Catherine Edelman Gallery, Chicago (USA).

Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles (USA).

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Picture Photo Space, Osaka (Japan).

1992

Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta (USA).

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana (USA).

Picture Photo Space, Osaka (Japan).

Fotograficentrum, Stockholm (Sweden).

Studio of Young Artists Association, Budapest (Hungary).

1991

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Pace/MacGill, New York (USA).

Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles (USA).

Hamiltons Gallery, London (England).

Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

The Museum of Modern Art, Haifa (Israel).

1989

Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York (USA).

Fahey/Klein Gallery, Los Angeles (USA).

National Centre for Photography, Palais de Tokyo, Paris (France).

Dart Gallery, Chicago (USA).

Museum für Fotografie und Zeitkunst, Bremen (Germany).

Encontros de Fotografia, Coimbra (Portugal).

Palau Sollerie, Palma (Spain).

1988

Tartt Gallery, Washington, D.C. (USA).

Hippolyte Photographic Gallery, Helsinki (Finland).

Rotterdam Biennial (Netherlands).

Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid (Spain).

Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston (USA).

Brent Sikkema Gallery, Boston (USA).

1987

University of Illinois at Carbondale, Carbondale (USA).

La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla (USA).

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Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Wright State University, Dayton (USA).

Pace/McGill Gallery, New York (USA).

Watari Gallery, Tokyo (Japan).

Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

1986

The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (USA).

Anderes Ufer, Berlin (Germany).

Hochschule der Kunst, Berlin (Germany).

The Tartt Gallery, Washington, D.C. (USA).

Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe (USA).

Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta (USA).

Baudoin Lebon Gallery, Paris (France).

Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College, Chicago (USA).

Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York (USA).

1985

Forty Photographs, Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco (USA).

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York (USA).

Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee (USA).

'American Images : Photography 1945-1980', Barbican Gallery, London (England).

Aspen Museum, Aspen (USA).

Franco-American Institute, Paris (France).

Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York (USA).

'The Unique Vision of Peter-Joel Witkin', Galerie Watari, Tokyo (Japan).

Butler Gallery, Houston (USA).

G.Ray Hawkins Gallery, Los Angeles (USA).

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco (USA).

FIAC 85. Gallery Texbraun, Grand Palais, Paris (France).

1984

Paul Cave Gallery, Philadelphia (USA).

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York (USA).

1983

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Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Hasselt (Belgium).

Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco (USA).

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City (USA).

Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta (USA).

Hardison Fine Arts Gallery, New York (USA).

1982

Texbraun Gallery, Paris (France).

San Francisco Camera Work, San Francisco (USA).

1980

Projects Studio One, New York (USA).

The Cooper Union School of Fine Arts, New York (USA).

1976

The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque (USA).

1972

The Cooper Union School of Fine Arts, New York (USA).

1969

The Moore College of Art, Philadelphia (USA).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

‘Witkin, photographies de Joel-Peter Witkin’, Éditions Delpire, 2012.

‘Joel-Peter Witkin, Enfer ou Ciel, Heaven or Hell’, Éditions de La Martinière, 2012.

‘Joel-Peter Witkin’, Phaidon Editions, 2007.

‘Songs of experience’, William Blake, 21st Editions, 2002.

‘Joel-Peter Witkin’, Phaidon Editions, Collection 55, London, 2001.

‘Joël-Peter Witkin, disciple et maître’, Pierre Borhan, Marval Editions, 2000.

‘Joel Peter Witkin, Oeuvres récentes 1999-2000’, Baudoin Lebon, Paris, 2000.

‘The Bone House’, Twins Palms Publishers, New Mexico, 1998.

‘Joel-Peter Witkin, A Retrospective’, (Monograph), Scalo/D.A.P., New York, 1995.

‘Harms Way’, Twelve Tree Press, Santa Fe, NM, 1994.

‘Gods of Hearth and Heaven’, Twelve Tree Press, Pasadena, CA, 1991.

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'Joel-Peter Witkin', Photo-Poche, Volume 49, published by the Centre National de la Photographie (National Centre for Photography), Paris, France, 1991.

'Joel-Peter Witkin', Baudoin Lebon, Paris, France, 1991.

'Joel-Peter Witkin', Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France, 1989.

'Joel-Peter Witkin', Museum für Fotografie und Zeitkunst, Bremen, Allemagne, 1989.

'Joel-Peter Witkin', Centro de Arte Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid, Spain, 1988.

'Masterpieces of Medical Photography', Twelve Tree Press, Santa Fe, NM, 1987.

'Joel-Peter Witkin', Twelve Tree Press, Pasadena, CA, 1985.

'Joel-Peter Witkin : Forty Photographs', San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA, 1985.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Akron Art Museum, Akron USA.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, France.

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.

Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain.

George Eastman House, Rochester, USA.

High Museum of Art, Atlanta, USA.

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, USA.

Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, USA.

The Kinsey Institute, Bloomington, IN

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. USA.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA.

The Museum of Fine Art, Houston, USA.

The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA.

The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. USA.

National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. USA.

Princeton Art Museum, Princeton, USA.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA.

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Holland.

Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Japan.

University of Arizona, Tucson, USA.

Victoria and Albert Museum, London, United Kingdom.

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