

DAVID SPILLER

When I first saw David Spiller's work, his easy touch with the bright immediacy of Pop Art paired with an internalized and highly nuanced interpretation of popular culture immediately captured my attention. His examination of accepted "truisms", his offbeat reiteration of familiar phrases places them within a new context, forcing us to take a second look, to rethink our initial responses. None of the cynicism or materialism often associated with Pop Art is of interest to Spiller – his use of fragmented or misquoted song lyrics or common aphorisms is entirely genuine, part of a larger lifelong composition, a broader and more profound look at these cultural fragments.

Each painting has clarity and strong color, presented with an intuitive geometry created from many accumulated pieces of earlier paintings, long-saved bits that have individual meaning but ultimately become part of a larger whole. Sewn together – often by hand – with careful tiny stitches, it is only when we look at the back of the canvas that we can see how impeccably each "thought" is assembled to form the complete idea. The technique becomes a metaphor for how we build our own sense of what matters, how we gather meaning and develop our sensibilities from an unruly amalgam of words and images, of memories and references.

Spiller's work draws on a multitude of traditions, from graffiti art to pop to abstraction and expressionism, utilizing elements and techniques from each of them. His influences from the pantheon of art history are diverse, ranging from Andy Warhol to Frank Auerbach to Picasso, Dubuffet and Basquiat, though his own work is instantly identifiable. Words are important, each stenciled letter or scribbled phrase has significance, emerging from the stockpiled history he carries within, accumulated from his huge intellectual appetite and insatiable curiosity about life. The same is true of the images he chooses. From Mickey Mouse to Marilyn to dollar signs and company logos, they have both universal weight and personal meaning – while they recall the icons we have known since childhood they seem suddenly fresh and vibrant. We smile in recognition of the good humor and affection implicit in the work even as we ponder deeper implications.

Spiller well understands that there are multiple levels of social and cultural engagement within each canvas. As the artist has stated "I really want to make paintings that put some magic on the wall. Some of them are straightforward things. Some are wild things." His decades of work present a continuous non-linear narrative that we can enter at will. Each painting may contain references from the last century or from yesterday, yet they are all part of his ongoing dialogue with the world, full of energy and optimism.

Fran Kaufman
NYC, September 2017

Education/Experience

- 1942 Born in Dartford Kent
- 1957 Sidcup School of Art
- 1958-62 Beckenham School of Art Kent
- 1962-65 Slade School of Art London
- 1980s Lived and worked in Berlin and New York

Exhibitions

- 1987 Zeitkunst Gallery | Innsbruck & Cologne (solo show, catalogue)
Eugene Lendel Gallery | Gras, Austria (solo show)
Woord & Reeld Museum Hedendaagse Kunst | Utrecht, Holland
Woord & Reeld Stadtmuseum | Ratingen, Germany
Materialisation Mannheim | Kunstverein, Germany
- 1988 Twinings Gallery | New York, USA (solo show)
Kana Contemporary Arts Gallery | Berlin, Germany (solo show)
Zeitkunst Gallery | Innsbruck & Cologne (solo show, catalogue)
- 1989 Twinings Gallery | New York, USA (solo show)
- 1990 Alexander Roussos Gallery | London, England (solo show)
Twinings Gallery | New York, USA (solo show, catalogue)
Ariadne Gallery | Vienna, Austria (solo show)
- 1991 Ariadne Gallery | Vienna, Austria (solo show)
Willy Schoots Gallery | Eindhoven, Holland (solo show)
- 1992 Reflex Gallery | Amsterdam, Holland
Pop & Artvertising Museum Van Bommel | Venlo, Holland
Gallery Naviglio | Milan & Venice Italy (solo show)
- 1993 Gallery Naviglio | Milan & Venice Italy
Gallery Rokoko | Stuttgart, Germany (solo show)
Gallery Ferdinand Maier | Cologne, Germany (solo show)
- 1994 Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark (solo show)
Gallery Cotthem | Knokke, Belgium (solo show)
Kasten Steinmetz | Mannheim, Germany (solo show)
- 1995 Galley Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Gallery Cotthem | Knokke, Belgium (solo show)
- 1996 Museum Van Bommel - Van Dam | Venlo, Holland
Gallery Cotthem | Knokke, Belgium (solo show)
- 1997 Gallery Cotthem | Barcelona, Spain (solo show, catalogue)
Gallery Ribbentrop | Munich, Germany

- 1998 Take 3 Beaux Arts | London, England
Rokoko Gallery | Stuttgart, Germany (works on paper)
Gallery Cotthem | Knokke, Belgium (solo show)
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Edward Lucie-Smith)
- 1999 Cartoons and Comics Virgin Atlantic
Artists of fame & Promise Beaux Arts | London, England
Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Linda Saunders)
- 2000 Gallery Moderne | Denmark (solo show, catalogue essay by Edward Lucie-Smith)
Simmer Beaux Arts | London, England
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke & Latem, Belgium
Guy Pieters Gallery | St. Paul de Vence, France
Gallery Camino Real | Boca Raton, Florida, USA (solo show)
Gallery Klaus Peter Goebel | Stuttgart, Germany
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Ben Tufnell)
- 2001 Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Summer Show Beaux Arts | London, England
Gallery Wild | Frankfurt, Germany (solo show)
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Marco Livingstone)
- 2002 Gallery Camino Real | Boca Raton, Florida, USA (solo show)
Museum Espace | Belleville, Paris (L'humour dans l'art Contemporain)
Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Summer Show Beaux Arts | London, England
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Martin Gayford)
- 2003 Royal West of England Academy (David Inshaw - Friends and Influences)
Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Wild Gallery | Frankfurt, Germany (solo show)
Summer Show Beaux Arts | London, England
Ernst Hilger | Vienna, Austria
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (solo show, catalogue)
- 2004 Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Edward Lucie-Smith)
Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Raab Gallery | Berlin, Germany (solo show)
Guy Pieters Gallery | St. Paul de Vence, France (solo show, essay by Edward Lucie-Smith)
- 2005 Wild Gallery | Frankfurt, Germany (solo show)
Love for Sale Bankside Gallery | London, England (curated by Edward Lucie-Smith)
Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay by Sue Hubbard)
- 2005 Midwest Kunst Herring Museum | Denmark

- 2006 Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark (solo show)
Apart Media | Amsterdam, Netherlands (solo show)
Summer show, Beaux Arts | London, England
Artcurial | Paris, France (mixed show, Mickey dans tous ses etats)
- 2007 Mannheim Kunstverein | Mannheim, Germany (solo show, essay Martin Stather)
Gallery Wild | Frankfurt, Germany (solo show)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (solo show, essay by Edward Lucie-Smith)
- 2008 Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark (solo show, essay Simon Grant)
Tournesols Gallery | Lyon, France (solo show)
Gallery Willy Schoots | Eindhoven, Holland (exhibition with Rik Van Irsel)
Gallery Wild | Frankfurt, Germany
Interatrium Gallery | Porto, Portugal (solo show)
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay Martin Gayford)
- 2009 Guy Pieters Gallery | St. Paul de Vence, France (solo show, essay Martin Gayford)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (exhibition with Robert Combas)
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay Edward Lucie Smith)
- 2010 Espace Villegle, St Gratien | Paris, France (solo show, essay Edward Lucie-Smith)
Beaux Arts | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay Charles Darwent)
Tournesols Gallery | Vichy, France (solo show)
- 2011 Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark (solo show, essay Charles Darwent)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (solo show)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (group show Jim Dine, Indiana, Warhol, Ramos)
- 2012 Beaux Arts Gallery | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay Sam Cornish)
Fisherplatz Gallery | Ulm, Germany (solo show)
- 2013 Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (group show Christo, Delvoye, Jan Fabre, Quinze)
Portland Gallery | London, England (solo show, catalogue essay Karen Wright)
- 2014 At the Gallery | Antwerp, Belgium (solo show)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (solo show, catalogue essay Emma Lilley)
- 2015 Portland Gallery | London, England (solo show)
Long-Sharp Gallery | Indianapolis, USA (2 man show)
- 2016 Bege/Fischerplatz Gallery | Ulm, Germany (solo show)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (mixed show)
- 2017 Portland Gallery | London, England (solo show)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (solo show)
- 2018 Gallery Moderne | Silkeborg, Denmark (mixed show)
2018 Gallerie Kasten | Mannheim, Germany (collages show)
Long Sharp Gallery | New York, USA (solo show)

Stadtische Galerie Wangen | Allgau, Germany (mixed museum show)
Foundation Carmignac | Porquerolles, France (mixed museum show)
Cornell Art Museum | Florida, USA (mixed museum show)

2019 Portland Gallery | London (solo show work from 1990s)
Guy Pieters Gallery | Knokke, Belgium (mixed show)

2020 Portland Gallery | London (solo show work from 1990-2018)
There are Places I Remember | Long-Sharp Gallery

Art Fairs

Art Basel, Masterpiece (London), Art Cologne, Royal Academy (original prints), Art Miami, London art fair, Art Palm Beach, Art Wynwood, Art Frankfurt, Lineart Ghent, Art Brussels, Paris FIAC, Strasbourg, Stuttgart, Copenhagen Denmark, ARCO Madrid