

# JAMES CHRONISTER

## BIOGRAPHY

In his paintings, James Chronister has produced a visual language that oscillates between personal and universal ideas of landscape and place. Based on his own photographs of his native state of Montana, Chronister renders images using thinned black oil paint on a white or neutral colored ground, conveying space and depth utilizing mark making akin to an intaglio print. In these recent works, the white ground becomes highlights, the opaque passages become shadows and cross hatching become mid tones. Unassuming but vastly complex in their subtlety, these scenes of nature depict an unseen environment that is both rich and rewarding of investigation.



*Though reminiscent of such postmodern masters as Gerhard Richter and Luc Tuymans, Chronister has devised a painterly language much his own. Working with a tiny brush and one dark, neutral color on carefully hued, off-white canvases, Chronister achieves a startling range of tonality and depth. Viewed up-close, the paintings are constructed by a series of small, discrete marks: a binary system of data--like type on a page--that results in a surreal density of information. Step back, and the pictures cohere. The eye and mind struggle to reconcile the illusionism of these paintings with the narrow, restrained means of their technique.*

— Jake Longstreth

Chronister earned his BFA (High Honors) as a University Scholar (Davidson Honors College) from the University of Montana, Missoula in 2001 and his MFA (with Distinction) from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco in 2004. Chronister was awarded the Fox and Miles Scholarships while at the University of Montana and the Richard K. Price Scholarship while at the California College of the Arts. In 2013, Chronister was awarded the Artist-In-Residence at the Lux Art Institute in Encinitas, California, which was accompanied by a survey of his work from the years 2009-2013. Chronister was nominated for the SECA Award from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art in 2010 and 2018. In 2020 Chronister was a recipient of the Bay Area Visual Artist Production Relief Grant from Evergold Projects, San Francisco. Chronister has been a visiting artist at the California College of the Arts, the Lux Art Institute and the San Francisco Art Institute.

Public collections of Chronister's work include the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Stanford Hospital, San Francisco International Airport, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, San Francisco General Hospital, Nion McEvoy Family Collection, Paul Wattis III Family Collection and the Howard Tullman Family Collection.

The artist lives and works in Missoula, Montana.

## ELI RIDGWAY GALLERY

NADA NYC 2022 | Booth I-09  
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Born 1978, Helena, MT

Lives and Works in Missoula, MT

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Only Sunrises*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2017 *Glass Summers*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2016 *Sup Paintings*, %100 Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2015 *Better Bowls, More Crackers*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2014 *Bitterroot*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2013 *James Chronister: Paintings 2007–2013*, Lux Art Institute, Encinitas, CA  
2011 *Now We Lustre*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2010 *Ceremony*, Burnet Gallery, Minneapolis, MN  
2009 *All We Ever Wanted Was Anything*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
2007 *Listen Like Thieves*, Bloom Studios, Oakland, CA

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *The Art of Trees*, The Gund Gallery, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH  
2020 *Rooted: Trees in Contemporary Art*, Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, CA  
*Spaces*, Burnet Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
2019 *O! 'darkly, deeply, beautifully blue,' As some one somewhere sings...*, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*OK, Wow. GREAT*, 1240 Minnesota Street, San Francisco, CA, curated by Brion Nuda Rosch  
2018 *Arts & Nature Social Club*, CIRCLE CULTURE, Berlin, Germany, curated by Johann Haehling von Lanzenauer  
*Ascent*, U.S. Bank, San Francisco, CA, curated by Elizabeth Leach  
2017 *James Chronister and Megan Reed*, Interim via Et al, Oakland, CA, curated by Aaron Harbour  
2016 *We're Together*, Good Mother Gallery, Oakland, CA, curated by Grant Gutierrez  
*I Never Learned the Title of the Song I Always Sing*, Minnesota Street Project, San Francisco, CA, curated by Brion Nuda Rosch  
2015 *An Arbitrary Group of Paintings*, Et Al, San Francisco, CA, curated by Facundo Arganaraz  
2014 *Bay Area Now 7*, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, CA  
2011 *Chromaticism*, NOMA Gallery, San Francisco, CA, curated by Liz Wing  
2010 *Dissonance*, POEvolving Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, curated by Alexis Anne McKenzie  
*Space: Series 1*, Truesilver Union Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*It's Only Rock and Roll But I Like It*, Truesilver Union Gallery, San Francisco, CA

- Chimera: Fabrications of the Mind*, Gensler, San Francisco, CA, curated by Mathew Boyko
- 2006 *Paintings From Pluto*, Gallery of Urban Art, Emeryville, CA (w/Jake Longstreth)
- Trucker Hats Vs. Sideways Haircuts*, On Six Gallery, San Francisco, CA, curated by Leslie Shows
- Celebrity*, Café Royal, San Francisco, CA, curated by Mathew Hughes Boyko
- Snap, Crackle, Pop*, PlaySpace Gallery, CCA, San Francisco, CA, curated by Sarrita Hunn
- 2004 *MFA Thesis Exhibition*, CCA, San Francisco, CA. curated by Mathew Higgs
- 50 Below*, PlaySpace Gallery, CCA, San Francisco, CA
- Green Couch Soirée*, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
- 2003 *99 Bottles*, Build Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- Spaces to Fall Into*, Slingshot Gallery, Berkeley, CA
- Collectively*, CCA, San Francisco, CA
- 2002 *Slingshot*, Alpha Galleries, CCA, San Francisco, CA
- Feedback*, Alpha Galleries, CCA, San Francisco, CA
- ANA 31*, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT, Juried by Gerald Peters
- Montana Artists*, Melanie Alvarez Gallery, Missoula, MT
- 2001 *B.F.A. Thesis Exhibition*, Gallery of Visual Arts, Missoula, MT
- ANA 30*, Holter Museum of Art, Helena, MT, Juried by Peter Schjeldahl
- Amnesty International Human Rights Cultural Exhibition*, University Center, Missoula, MT

#### AWARDS AND ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2021 Tinworks Artist Grant Alternate, Bozeman, MT
- 2018 SECA nomination, SFMOMA, SF, CA
- 2013 Artist in Residence, Lux Art Institute, Encinitas, CA
- 2010 SECA nomination, SFMOMA, SF, CA
- 2004 Richard K. Price Scholarship (painting), CCA, SF, CA
- MFA with Distinction, CCA, SF, CA
- 2003 CCA Painting Scholarship, CCA, SF, CA
- 2001 BFA with High Honors, U of M, Missoula, MT
- University Scholar, Davidson Honors College, U of M, Missoula, MT
- Fox Scholarship, U of M, Missoula, MT
- 2000 Miles Scholarship, U of M, Missoula, MT

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2017 "Now Featuring James Chronister," Little Paper Planes Blog, Interview by Maggie Haas
- 2015 "James Chronister: Better Bowls More Crackers," Artists Speak Interview, by Katie McCracken. ArtistsSpeak.org
- 2013 "The Paintings of James Chronister at Lux Art Institute," Sunset Magazine, by Thomas Story

- "Being Alone: The Paintings of James Chronister at Lux," San Diego Story, by  
Kraig Cavanaugh.
- "Visiting Lux Artist Paints in the Dark," KPBS San Diego, by Angela Carone.
- "Connecting the Dots at Lux," UT San Diego, by James Chute.
- "James Chronister Prefers the Imperfect," San Diego City Beat, by Alex Zaragoza.
- "LUX Kids: Lux Kids are Experimenting with James Chronister's Dot-Painting Technique,  
Lux Art Institute Blog, by Kara Leen.
- "DAILY SERVING: An Interview with James Chronister," DAILY SERVING, by Robin Tung.
- 2012 "Studio Visit with James Chronister," This Month's Edition, by Jonathan Casella.  
"Lux Announces Fall Line-Up," San Diego Union-Tribune, Nov 20th  
"Lux Announces New Artists for 2013 Residency," NC Times, June 21st
- 2011 Featured Artist, New American Painting, Issue 91  
"James Chronister," American Art Collector, June Issue  
"Rackroom: Interview with James Chronister," Artslant  
"Editorial Recommendations," Visual Art Source
- 2010 "Rock and Roll, Cali and Why Garth Brooks Didn't Make the Cut," FRANK 151  
"James Chronister on 'Ceremony' at the Burnet Gallery," Skyway of Love  
"James Chronister: Ceremony," Citypages, Minneapolis, MN
- 2009 "In Black and White," by Kristi Beardshear, Artslant  
"James Chronister at Eleanor Harwood Gallery," by Jake Longstreth, Shotgun Review
- 2006 "Snap, Crackle, Pop," Exhibition Catalog, SF, CA  
"Celebrity," Exhibition Catalog, SF, CA
- 2001 "ANA 30 Artists," Independent Record, Helena, MT
- 1999 American Institute for Foreign Study Journal, Salamanca, Spain

## COLLECTIONS

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA  
Stanford Hospital, Redwood City, CA  
San Francisco International Airport, San Francisco, CA  
Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA  
San Francisco General Hospital, SF, CA  
Nion McEvoy Collection, San Francisco and Petaluma, CA  
Paul Wattis III Collection, San Francisco, CA  
Howard Tullman Collection, Chicago, CA

## LECTURES

- 2015 Visiting Artist, San Francisco Art Institute, SF, CA
- 2013 Artist Lecture, Lux Art Institute, Encinitas, CA
- 2012 Visiting Artist, California College of the Arts, SF, CA
- 2011 Visiting Artist, California College of the Arts, SF, CA

## EDUCATION

- 2004 MFA California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA (With Distinction)
- 2001 BFA University of Montana, Missoula, MT (High Honors)
- 1999 University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain