

Michael Harnish

Shangri-La

October 15 - November 12, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday, October 15, 5-8pm

Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present *Shangri-La*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Southern California-based artist Michael Harnish. Utilizing a vibrant palette and varied forms of mark-making, these acrylic and oil-based works incorporate juxtapositions that allude to native flora, pattern, Japanese woodblock prints, horizon lines, house plants, and ceramics. Taking its title from the mythical local in James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*, Harnish brings a dose of Southern California insouciance to the subject matter—infusing an east-meets-west visual dialog indicative of his home surroundings with a spray of neon paint under the shadow of a palm tree.

In *Shangri-La*, the works are installed as a montage, reading off each other as color, form, and imagery echo throughout the exhibition. Harnish who frequently begins his process by creating collages—tearing pages from books and magazines, and combining images and color intuitively—reflects that action in these paintings. A cartoonish depiction of a Japanese woodblock print is juxtaposed against a pink sky over the ocean at sunset, rich gold and black brocade set off a brushy rendering of a hanging fern, while painterly applications of bold swaths of color intersperse the picture planes throughout the works. The paintings in *Shangri-La* reflect glimpses of place, memory, and illusion that tell a story unique to the artist's whims.

As a native Californian, the concept of 'Shangri-La' itself plays out in Harnish's surrealist works. The experience of growing up and living in such a diverse culture is envisioned in Harnish's choice of subject matter. As told in the book *Lost Horizon*, a meeting of cultures plays out in a fictional utopian lamasery where time stands still. Los Angeles with its mild climate, sense of possibility, and imported palm trees is a beacon for people from all over the world, and while Hollywood has long explored a fabled concept of Los Angeles, living in a place that lacks distinct seasons has the ability to distort one's perception of time. As we find in the novel, a distortion of reality does not always work out to one's advantage, however maintaining a feeling of wonder and youth can operate as a tonic to the soul.

Michael Harnish (b. 1982, Dana Point, CA) lives and works in Fullerton, CA. Utilizing imagery pulled from various sources including botanical books, fashion magazines, and commercial signage in his native Southern California, Harnish begins his painting process by first making paper collages. These collages then become the inspiration for his paintings—sometimes accurate depictions of the original collage, other times improvisation takes the lead once the brush hits the canvas. Having received his MFA from the Laguna College of Art and Design in 2010, Harnish has exhibited at various galleries in Southern California including a recent exhibition with the Newsstand Project, Los Angeles.

For more information please contact: info@lowellryanprojects.com

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Checklist



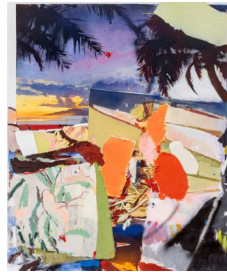
Michael Harnish
Odyssey
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-048



Michael Harnish
Cast Shadows
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-049



Michael Harnish
October Warm Light
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-050



Michael Harnish
Lost Horizon
2022
Acrylic, oil, collaged paper, acrylic spray paint, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-051



Michael Harnish
No Surprises
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-052



Michael Harnish
Bye Bye
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray paint on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-053



Michael Harnish
I Try
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-054



Michael Harnish
Arrangement in Red
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-055



Michael Harnish
Cigarettes and Coffee
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-056



Michael Harnish
Tide Is High
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-057



Michael Harnish
Explosion
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-058



Michael Harnish
Echo
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on
canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-059



Michael Harnish
Paved Paradise
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on
canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-060



Michael Harnish
Bound to Blow Away
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-061



Michael Harnish
Daydream
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray
paint on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-062



Michael Harnish
Roman Rule
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
72h x 60w inches
182.88h x 152.4w cm
MH-063

Upstairs:



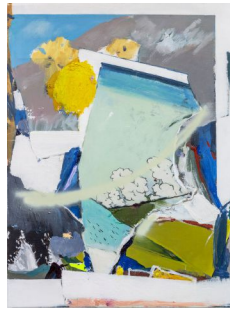
Michael Harnish
Withstanding the Elements
2022
Acrylic, oil, collaged paper,
and acrylic spray paint on
canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-064



Michael Harnish
Salted Memory
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-065



Michael Harnish
Soft Landing
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-066



Michael Harnish
No Tears
2022
Acrylic, oil, acrylic spray paint,
and oil stick on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-067



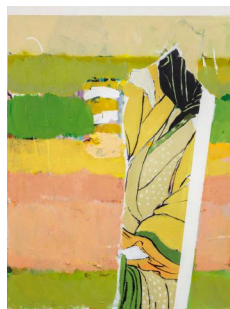
Michael Harnish
24 Hours
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray
paint on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-068



Michael Harnish
Sunrise
2022
Acrylic and oil on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-069



Michael Harnish
Different Sky
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray
paint on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-070



Michael Harnish
Truer than True
2022
Acrylic, oil, and oil stick on
canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-071



Michael Harnish
Confusion and Conflict
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray
paint on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-072



Michael Harnish
Passing Time
2022
Acrylic, oil, and acrylic spray
paint on canvas
48h x 36w inches
121.92h x 91.44w cm
MH-073