



Lumbeeland: The Hidden Beauty of Swamps

November 1-30, 2024

RED SPRINGS ARTSPACE

Barton College in Wilson, NC, Features Works by David Molesky

Barton College in Wilson, NC, is presenting *Figural Transitions: Masculinity from Realism to Allegory*, featuring works by Artist-in-Residence David Molesky, on view in the Barton Art Galleries, located in the Case Art Building, located on the southeast corner of the Barton College Campus, near the intersection of Whitehead and Gold Streets, through Nov. 22, 2024.

Molesky says, “Many of my earliest paintings were self portraits. I looked at my own figure, gesture, and body language for evidence of my thoughts and feelings. When I discovered that connection I expressed it through color and paint gestures. For the last couple decades, I have created narrative works inspired by dreams, memories, and direct observation. I start with my personal experience and strive for compositions that are universal. As the zeitgeist of figurative art has fixated on identities, I’ve found that representations of gender, race, and body type can be distracting. In 2014, I was struck by the idea to paint a banana as a stand-in for a human figure. A decade later, I’ve made it the focus of my work. Bananas are seemingly robust yet prone to bruising, just like men. Because of these aspects as well as the color and the shape of a banana, they are an apt symbol to explore ideas around masculinity.”

David Molesky (b.1977) is an artist whose oil paintings explore our relationship to the sublime forces of nature. He is interested in the psychology behind the creative process and experiences of awe, as well as the magic of paint - how a goopy amorphous substance can be transformed into illusionistic images capable of arousing empathy and contemplation.

Molesky’s paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States and Europe and form part of the permanent collections of a number of public museums including the Long Beach Museum of Art and the Iloilo Museum of Contemporary Art,



David Molesky working during his residency Philippines. He is the recipient of artist residencies awarded by the Morris Graves Foundation, California; Fine Art Base, California; the Fundacja Nakielska, Poland; and the Akureyri Art Museum, Iceland. David’s work has been featured in publications that include *The Washington Post*, *New American Painting*, *American Arts Quarterly*, and *Hi-Fructose*.

Molesky grew up on the East Coast and began oil painting in his early teens. By the time he set off to attend UC Berkeley, he’d already made a few hundred paintings and had a sold out solo-exhibition. At Berkeley, he pursued both his passions for art and science while attempting to view his painting process through the lens of neurobiology. After receiving his BA, Molesky made a circuit of apprenticeships with artists whose work drew from the rich history of the figurative tradition.

In building his community of peers and mentors, Molesky moved to San Francisco, Seattle, Monterey, Los Angeles, and Europe, before returning to San Francisco where he set up a studio in an antique prop rental warehouse. In 2013, he moved to NYC, eventually settling into a live/work loft in East Williamsburg. The community of artists he’d come to meet in the next seven years deeply inspired and influenced his evolution as a painter and became the

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