

HOLLY HUNT ART

ABOUT

James Kendall Higgins

James Kendall Higgins is a Southern California artist who creates mixed media paintings using a silver emulsion process that shapes an imperfect surface, blurring the lines between painting and sculpture. Higgins' artworks are about identity and memory, addressing the process of developing, both literally and metaphorically. The minimal works are objects that represent the border between light and shadow, thus forming a spatial relationship and creating a human connection through their materiality.

The viewer finds this experience made visible in perfect imperfections. The works are created with numerous layers of reflective minerals and pigments suspended in polymers and resin. The reflective surfaces develop a silver emulsion.

Handmade tools show visible subtleties that invite an immersive experience to the viewer. The unrealistic representation of the world is reflected in the silver surfaces, bringing forward questions about identity and perfectionism.

The way in which our reality is represented through film and art has always been of interest to Higgins. In a Post-Truth era, where the line is blurred between objective facts and imprudent beliefs, the work fits into this suspended state. Higgins' work questions reality and memory, relating how we see the world through the lens of these memories and interpret them for public consumption. The luminosity of the reflective surface becomes the backdrop to the memory of looking at oneself in the mirror, and finally seeing oneself as you are, while alternatively being unrecognizable. Issues of identity and self-acceptance are ingrained in the work, while still being open to interpretation and exploration.

The focus on precisely modeling the surface to catch the light explores visual strategies linked to sculpture that result in an undoubted relationship between illusion and abstraction. Inspired by the work of Richard Serra, Gerhard Richter, and Agnes Martin, Higgins bridges the distinctions between painting, photography and sculpture, creating works that are reflective as opposed to objective. The monochromes inspire full immersion into the work and invite the viewer to make a closer connection.

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James Kendall Higgins was born in Virginia and grew up exploring the quiescent natural wilderness and formal gardens of Albemarle County. His continued passion for making art began as a young man and flourished at Virginia Commonwealth University where he studied Fine Art and Design. Higgins received honors and a fellowship from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

For nearly a decade following, corporate design firms in New York City recruited Higgins to create brand identities and corporate collateral materials. Higgins was then drawn to La Jolla, California to expand his studio where he spent more than three decades working with distinguished architects and designers on projects based in fine art, graphic, product, residential and hospitality lighting and furniture design.

Numerous private and corporate collectors worldwide commission Higgins for site specific works.