

HEATHER GAUDIO FINE ART

382 Greenwich Avenue, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

p. 203.801.9590

heathergaudiofineart.com

DENNIS LEE MITCHELL (b. 1946)

Dennis Lee Mitchell uses torches and other smoke devices to create beautiful and original abstract drawings. He deliberately leaves his work untitled, allowing viewers to conjure their own visual references and experiences. The process of putting smoke and flame in close proximity to paper, two contradictory gestures and materials, requires several attempts before arriving at the final work. Mitchell's numerical system indicates the number of preparatory drawings needed to achieve the desired image, followed by the number of attempts on the final archival paper, such as Arches. The results are mysterious, landscape or flower-like images that engage and mesmerize the viewer with gradations of smoke and suggestions of smoldering embers.

EDUCATION

- 1971 M.F.A. Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- 1969 M.A. Fort Hays Kansas State University, Hays, KS
- 1968 B.A. Fort Hays Kansas State University, Hays, KS

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

SOLO

- 2025 *From an Open Flame*, Maya Frodeman Gallery, Jackson Hole, WY
- 2024 Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
Dennis Lee Mitchell, William Havu Gallery, Denver, CO
Through an Open Flame, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2023 *Playing with Fire*, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2022 *Infinite Musings*, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Jackson Hole, WY
- 2021 *Recorded Traces*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
Dennis Lee Mitchell, William Havu Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2019 *Smoke Remains*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Smoke*, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 2017 *Smoke Theory*, Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, IL
Smoke Drawings, William Hayu Gallery, Denver, CO
- 2015 *Smoke on Paper*, Todd Wiener Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- 2014 *Smoke Drawings*, William Havu Gallery, Denver CO
- 2013 *Dennis Lee Mitchell Smoke Drawings*, C. Grimaldis Gallery, Baltimore, MD
- 2012 *Earth and Fire*, Patraidas Contemporary, Philadelphia PA
- 2011 *Distillation*, Dubhe Carreño Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Origin*, Alcoma Gallery, Athens, Greece

GROUP

- 2025 *Blaze, Smolder, Char*, Sohn Fine Arts, Lenox, Massachusetts
Beyond Color, The Language of Black and White, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
Salon d'hiver, Sohn Fine Arts, Lenox, MA
Material Matters, Seager/Gray Gallery, Mill Vallery, California
The Summer Show, Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, North Carolina
50th Celebration, William Havu Gallery, Denver, Colorado
- 2024 *Salon Des Hivers*, Sohn Fine Art Gallery, Lenox, Massachusetts
Jerald Melberg Gallery, 40 yrs Exhibition, Charolette, North Carolina
Seager/Gray Gallery, Material Matters, Mill Vallery, California
- 2023 Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charolette, North Carolina
It happened one night, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Jackson Hole, Wyoming
- 2022 William Havu Gallery, Denver, Colorado
Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

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- 2019 *Dennis Lee Mitchell: Smoke Drawings & Chinese Art Deco Posters*, Gallery Neptune & Brown, Washington, DC
- 2018 *Burn Baby Burn*, Heather Gaudio Fine Art, New Canaan, CT
- 2016 U.S. State Department, Art in Embassy Exhibition, U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey
- 2015 *Two Person Show*, Perimeter Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2014 *New Media Exploration*, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2016 U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey
- 2010 *CAA Seoul 2010*, Kepco Art Center, Seoul, Korea

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2018-19 Art Bank Grant, D.C., Commission on the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- 2016-17 Pollock/Krasner Foundation Grant
- 2016 Onsite Lectures, U.S. Art in Embassy Program, Ankara, Turkey
- 2014-16 Art Bank, D.C. Commission of the Arts
- 1975-77 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Grant

SELECTED PRESS

- 2024 "Smoke Signals" Home & Design Magazine, January, 2024, pages 138-139
"Dennis Lee Mitchell's Poetry of Smoke," Robin Dluzen
"Smoke as Medium, Dennis Lee Mitchell's Art," Donald Kuspit
- 2023 "Playing with Fire," Northern Virginia Magazine, June 2023, pages 49-53
"Up in Smoke" Art & Antiques, September/October 2023, page 34
- 2022 "Dennis Lee Mitchell, Untitled" (3204), Whitefish Review, Volume 14, Issue 1, Summer/Fall 2022, page 76
- 2021 "Smoke Drawings by Dennis Lee Mitchell at William Havu Gallery," Denver Art Review, Denver, Colorado
- 2019 "Review of Smoke Drawings by Dennis Lee Mitchell at Gallery Neptune & Brown," Washington Post, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 "Dennis Lee Mitchell's Smoke Drawings," Donald Kuspit,
- 2016 "Cinder There Is: Surrealism and the Smoke Drawings of Dennis Lee Mitchell," H. Peter Steeves, Philosophy Department, DePaul University, Chicago, IL
"Review of Smoke Drawings by Dennis Lee Mitchell at C. Grimaldis Gallery," Baltimore Sun, Baltimore, Maryland
"Review of Smoke Drawings by Dennis Lee Mitchell at C. Grimaldis Gallery," Baltimore City Paper, Baltimore, Maryland
- 2012 "Dennis Lee Mitchell's Smoke Drawings and Related Works," Donald Kuspit Essay
Victor M. Cassidy, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art Catalog Essay, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, Illinois
Northwest Passage, Review of Exhibition, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, Illinois
- 2011 "Dennis Lee Mitchell," Paul Klein, Paul Klein Art Letter
Victor M. Cassidy, "Dennis Lee Mitchell," Chicago Art Magazine
- 2009 "Adventures of the Fire," World Ceramic Biennale, Icheon-city, South Korea 2008 Margaret Hawkins, "Dennis Lee Mitchell Natural Fragments," Ceramic Art and Perception
Alan Artner, Dennis Lee Mitchell, Review, Solo Exhibition at Dubhe Carreño Gallery, Chicago Tribune, March 21, 2008
- 2006 "30 Ceramic Sculptors 2006," John Natsoulis, John Natsoulis Press
- 2005 Bridgette R. McCullough, Review, Solo Exhibition at Dubhe Carreño Gallery, Time-Out Chicago
"I Have Always Been Driven with Desire for the Straightforward Truth of the Natural World," Elaine Levin, Ceramic Art and Perception
Glen R. Brown, Review of Solo Exhibition at Dubuque Museum of Art, American Ceramics, 14/4
- 2003 "Dennis Lee Mitchell's Microcosm of Transformation," Glen R. Brown, Solo Exhibition Catalogue of Solo Show at Dubuque Museum of Art, Dubuque, Iowa

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“Dennis Lee Mitchell,” Tarkassis, Kostas, Kerameiki Techni

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Arizona State University Art Museum, Ceramics Research Center, Tempe, AZ
Booth Family Center for Collections, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO
Deloitte & Touche Collection, Chicago, IL
Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO
Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI
Grand Valley State University Collection, Grand Rapids, MI
Illinois Collection for the State of Illinois Center, Chicago, IL
Illinois State Art Museum, Chicago, IL
Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL
Racine Art Museum, Racine, WI
Thrivent Financial Collection, Minneapolis, MN
Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, Chicago, IL
Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT
University of Evansville, Evansville, IN