Jonathan Gardner
Biography

Jonathan Gardner (b. 1982, Lexington, Kentucky) is an American painter known for his stylized, figurative works that blend elements of art history with personal imagination. He earned his BFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York in 2007 and his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010, studying under artist Jim Nutt. Gardner currently lives and works in New York City.

Gardner's paintings are characterized by flattened pictorial spaces and a synthesis of traditional genres such as still life, portraiture, and landscape. His compositions often reference modern art aesthetics, drawing inspiration from artists like Henri Matisse, René Magritte, and Pablo Picasso. Through a collage-based process, he manipulates spatial depth and perspective, creating scenes that are both familiar and surreal. This approach results in a cohesive visual language that invites viewers into a world where figures and objects coexist in stylized harmony.

His work has been exhibited internationally, with solo shows at galleries including Casey Kaplan in New York, Almine Rech in London and Paris, and Jason Haam in Seoul. Gardner's paintings are part of public collections such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Daegu Art Museum in Korea. In 2017, he was awarded the Prix Jean-François Prat, recognizing his contribution to contemporary art.

Solo exhibitions

2025

2025 - Still Life, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2024

2024 - Jonathan Gardner, Casey Kaplan, New York, USA

2023

2023 - Dusk, Casey Kaplan, New York, USA

2021

2021 - Jonathan Gardner, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, F

2019

2019 - Desert Wind, Casey Kaplan, New York, USA

2018

2018 - The spot of the eye, Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK

2016

2016 - Jonathan Gardner, Casey Kaplan, New York, USA

2014

2014 - Jonathan Gardner, Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK

2013

2013 - Nudes, Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago, USA

2011

2011 - New Paintings, Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago, USA

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Works on Paper, Casey Kaplan, New York, USA
2025 - Master Class, Secrist | Beach, Chicago, USA

2024

2024 - 2024 Collection Curatorial Exhibition: Map Reading of Painting, Daegu Art Museum, Daegu, ROK

2022

2022 - Varia, Centre d'Art Contemporain Meymac, Meymac, F
2022 - We Paint!, Palais des Études des Beaux-Arts, Paris, F

2021

2021 - Jonathan Gardner, Jason Haam, Seoul, ROK

2019

2019 - Chorus, organized with Bill Powers, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, F
2019 - Small Painting, Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago, USA

2017

2017 - Prix Jean-François Prat, Bredin Prat Non-Profit Fund for Contemporary Art, Paris, F

2016

2016 - Surrreal, König Galerie, Berlin, D

2015

2015 - Unrealism, organized by Jeffrey Deitch and Larry Gagosian , The Moore Building, Miami, USA
2015 - June: A Painting Show, Sadie Coles, London, UK
2015 - Jonathan Gardner, Vanessa Maltese, Nicelle Beauchene, New York, USA
2015 - Reliability of Recognition, BolteLang, Zürich, CH

2014

2014 - Inside Arrangement, Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK

2013

2013 - Plant Life, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, USA

2012

2012 - Big Youth II, Amel Bourouina Gallery, Berlin, D

2011

2011 - Private Future, Marc Jancou Contemporary, New York, USA

2010

2010 - Laughing as a Young Man, Southfirst, New York, USA
2010 - Through the Looking Glass, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, USA
2010 - MFA Exhibtion, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
2010 - Are You In or Our You Out, California Institute of the Arts, Santa Clarita, USA

2009

2009 - Big Youth, New Painters from Chicago, Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago, USA
2009 - Perversions, Tim Bergstrom & Jonathan Gardner, 1213, Chicago, USA
2009 - P.P., Guacho Social Club, Chicago, USA

2009 - What was the Idea, curated by Zak Prekop, Devening Projects + Editions, Chicago, USA

2008

2008 - Graduate MFA & Post-Bac Exhibition, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA

Public Collections

South Korea

Daegu Art Museum, Daegu

United States of America

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles