

SOHN FINE ART



A is for Always

John Clarke

May 3 - July 29

Reception

Saturday, May 25, 4:00 - 6:00

"Train Stories", a reading with John Clarke and John Roberts

Saturday, May 25, 6:00 - 7:00

Open Studio with John Clarke

Friday, July 12, 4:00 - 7:00

Located in Housatonic, Massachusetts. RSVP to Sohn Fine Art for address.



Sohn Fine Art is pleased to present "A is for Always", an exhibition of mixed media by Berkshire-based artist John Clarke. Hanging one visual language on the balance of another, Clarke's work combines photography, painting, writing and classical music. The show features Clarke's paintings, including his last remaining "Alina" abstracts, works from his ongoing "Bridge" series of mixed-media photography, his "Drawing on Memory" series and new paintings. The exhibit shows the arc of his career and explorations as an artist.

This exhibition, "A is for Always", draws on the building blocks of our ability to communicate through words. "A" begins the alphabet and our learned ability to relate to one another through words. "A" also represents simplicity - as easy as ABC. "A" is also the first letter of the word always. In Clarke's words, "My life over the past five years began with and continues to revolve around the word always. Something that doesn't fade over time and has been there for as long as you care to look back and will remain no matter what."

John Clarke has lived in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts since 2007. He was born in central Massachusetts around a landscape of mills, rivers, trains and bridges, which greatly inform his work. Clarke received his degree in classical music composition from Bates College in Maine.

Clarke merges a range of mediums that include paint, pastel, gesso, pencil, photography and music. Melodious and articulate, Clarke's work draws on his background as a classical composer. His lines and symbols are directed by music as they float and interact in the spaces of his images. One of his first bodies of work was inspired by a neoclassical piece of music, *Alina*, by the Estonian composer Arvo Part. His *Alina* series exemplifies his style and use of color, line, and shape. At the time, an article in *Rural Intelligence* called him a "multimedia abstract master."

Around 2002, Clarke bought a camera and started revisiting the railroad tracks and train yards he had once explored in order to capture some of those memories. Clarke's photography evolved, utilizing long exposure and gestural movement blur to create images that diffuse and abstract the world around him in order to spark an unknown journey into emotional and spiritual territories. In many of his works, there is a tension between what is revealed and what is obscured. He calls this "looking through the curtain".

Clarke's artworks vary in character ranging from soft and meditative to bold and vigorous, providing a symbiotic movement and rhythm. His latest work combines mediums, using photographic prints or written stories as backdrops for emotional layers of line, color and symbol with acrylic, pastel, pencil and gesso to create one-of-a-kind pieces. Clarke's most recent body of work, "Drawing on Memory," is a reinterpretation of his notes, journal entries, letters, sketches, and short stories from his days jumping freight trains throughout the northeast. His paintings play a game of hide and seek with words and gestural drawings, re-creating the narratives.

Often described as a "renaissance man," Clarke is also the front man and a primary songwriter for the band *The Best Times*. He also has a solo album, *All Beneath Our Train*. An avid writer, he has written 50 short stories about his years jumping freight trains. Clarke's work has been shown at multiple galleries and Museums. He was featured in the April 2011, August 2016, and September 2019 issues of *The Artful Mind Magazine* and the 2018 Autumn issue of *ArtAscent Magazine* (silver medal honor).



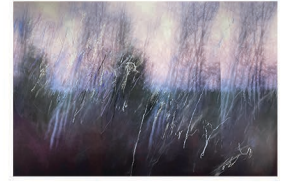
A is for Always
 34" x 48" Acrylic, Watercolor,
 Pastel, Graphite, Gesso
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 34.75" x 49": **\$5,250**



Time is Different at Night
 38.75" x 59.5" Acrylic, Pastel,
 Graphite, Gesso
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 44.5" x 66": **\$7,500**



The Things we Never Said
 38.75" x 59.5" Acrylic, Pastel,
 Graphite, Gesso
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 44.5" x 66": **\$7,500**



Untitled
 39.5" x 60" Photograph
 Handworked with Pastel and
 Colored Pencil
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 47.5" x 67.5": **\$7,500**



Alina No. 4
 49.5" x 38" Oil, Pastel, Pencil,
 Gesso
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 53.5" x 41.5": **\$5,750**



Alina No. 5
 49.5" x 38" Oil, Pastel, Pencil,
 Gesso
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 53.5" x 41.5": **\$5,750**



Alina No. 15
 49.5" x 38" Oil, Pastel, Pencil,
 Gesso
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 53.5" x 41.5": **\$5,750**



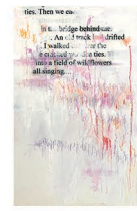
Autumn
 49.5" x 27" Photograph
 Handworked with Pastel and
 Colored Pencil
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 46.5" x 32.5": **\$5,750**



A Place to Hide and Wait
 45" x 30" Acrylic, Pastel, Graphite,
 Gesso on Archival Pigment Print
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 46" x 31": **\$4,750**



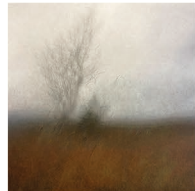
Hazleton is the Moon
 45" x 30" Acrylic, Pastel, Graphite,
 Gesso on Archival Pigment Print
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 46" x 31": **\$4,750**



Wildflowers
 45" x 30" Acrylic, Pastel, Graphite,
 Gesso on Archival Pigment Print
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 46" x 31": **\$4,750**



W is for When
 45" x 30" Acrylic, Pastel, Graphite,
 Gesso on Archival Pigment Print
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 46" x 31": **\$4,750**



I Think I Remember this Place
 34" x 34" Photograph
 Handworked with Pastel and
 Colored Pencil
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 39" x 39": **\$5,750**



Night Falls Somewhere
 34" x 34" Photograph
 Handworked with Pastel and
 Colored Pencil
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 39" x 39": **\$5,750**



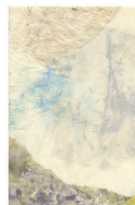
Light on the Far Side of the Pond
 29.5" x 19" Photograph
 Handworked with Pastel and
 Colored Pencil
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 34.5" x 24": **\$3,500**



Breeze over the Meadow
 30" x 20" Photograph
 Handworked with Pastel and
 Colored Pencil
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 39" x 29": **\$3,500**



When Will We Are Now? 1
 6" x 4" Mixed Media Collage
 on Tissue Paper
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 20" x 10.25": **\$950**



When Will We Are Now? 4
 6" x 4" Mixed Media Collage
 on Tissue Paper
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 20" x 10.25": **\$950**



When Will We Are Now? 7
 6" x 4" Mixed Media Collage
 on Tissue Paper
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 20" x 10.25": **\$950**



When Will We Are Now? 8
 6" x 4" Mixed Media Collage
 on Tissue Paper
 Unique
 Signed by artist
 Framed 20" x 10.25": **\$950**

Curriculum Vitae

Education

1994 BA Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Bates College, Lewiston, ME

Selected Exhibitions

- 2024 *A is for Always*, Sohn Fine Art (solo exhibition), Lenox, MA
- 2022 *The Art of the Hills*, Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA
Connectivity, Attleboro Arts Museum, Attleboro, MA
8th International Exhibition, Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Providence, RI
- 2021 *A Fall of Rain*, Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts, Providence, RI
- 2020 *The Art of the Hills*, Narrative, Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA
On the Surface, Attleboro Arts Museum, Attleboro, MA
Neoteric Abstract, Limner Gallery, Hudson, NY
Dreamscapes and Visions, PhotoPlace Gallery, Middlebury, VT
Moments of Focus, Alfa Art Gallery, New Brunswick, NJ
Interiors, Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA
- 2019 *Drawing on Memory*, Stockbridge Station Gallery (solo exhibition), Stockbridge, MA
Red Lion Inn exhibition (summer residency), Stockbridge, MA
Juried Exhibition, Becket Arts Center, Becket, MA
Beneath the Surface, 6 Bridges Gallery, Maynard, MA
BerkshireNow, Berkshire Museum (solo exhibition), Pittsfield, MA
- 2018 *Lyrical*, Sohn Fine Art (solo exhibition), Lenox, MA
Meshes, Geoff Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
Surfaces, LoosenArt Gallery, Rome, Italy
Autumn Juried Show, Rowayton Arts Center, Norwalk, CT
Art Through the Lens, Yeiser Art Center, Paducah, KY
The Art of the Hills, Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA
True North, Labspace, Hillsdale, NY
Photography as Impressionism, The Dot, Pittsfield, MA
White as Snow, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA
- 2017 *Into the Woods*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA
Seeds, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA
Wild Berkshires, The Stationery Factory, Dalton, MA
10 x 10, The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA
- 2016 *The Bridge*, Geoff Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA (Solo)
iMotif, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA
Midwinter Night's Dream, Good Purpose Gallery, Lee, MA
- 2015 *Orrin's Ladder*, Six Depot Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA (Solo)
- 2014 *Rurbansim*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA
A View of the Village, Little Gallery, Housatonic, MA (Solo)
- 2013 *Nude*, Sohn Fine Art, Lenox, MA
- 2011 *Untitled Drawings*, Joyce Goldstein Gallery, Chatham, NY (Solo)
- 2009 *15 Years*, Geoff Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA (Solo)
- 2008 *Alina*, Latchis Theater, Brattleboro, VT (Solo)