

# LISSON GALLERY

## Press Release

### Spencer Finch

#### *Woodcutter. Cut from me my shadow.*

55 Main Street  
East Hampton, NY  
December 3 – 13, 2020

For the latest exhibition in East Hampton, Lisson Gallery is pleased to present new work by Spencer Finch. With light and color as his subject matter, the Brooklyn-based artist creates ethereal, poetic work, recreating his journeys and experiences with the natural world in watercolor, photography, installation, video and drawing. Finch seeks to capture the ineffable qualities of everyday human existence.

Finch often incorporates the experience of light into his work — whether filtered through sunsets or seasons — investigating notions of place, as well as optics and perceptions. The neon work spreading across the main wall of the gallery, *Shadow of Orange Tree (After Lorca)*, (2020) re-creates the shadow of a tree in the garden of Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca's childhood home. Inspired by Lorca's poem *Song of the Barren Orange Tree*, Finch travelled to Fuente Vaqueros, in Granada, Spain, and measured the light as he experienced it on that day.

An avid gardener, Finch spent the months of lockdown in the country, outside of New York City. He used this time with his plants to chronicle their growth, including *Blooming Calendar (my garden)* (2020). Like much of his works that document natural phenomena, this vibrantly colored watercolor reflects both his devotion to the land and his deep appreciation of nature. Referencing the historic tradition of Japanese cherry blossom calendars, each colored dot in *Blooming Calendar (my garden)* relates to a day that a flower in Finch's garden first bloomed.

Since its inauguration this summer, Lisson Gallery's 1,000 square foot East Hampton space has presented exhibitions focused on both seminal, historic artworks and premiered new bodies of work. Previous artists on view include Stanley Whitney, Carmen Herrera, Anish Kapoor, Van Hanos, Joanna Pousette-Dart, Sean Scully, Shirazeh Houshiary, Liu Xiaodong, Tony Oursler, Channa Horwitz, Hugh Hayden and Jason Martin. This focused format, in an intimate setting, recalls the origins of Lisson Gallery, which was established in 1967 in a storefront window on London's Bell Street. The Long Island location of the new space joins Lisson's two other galleries in the New York area, including the recent expansion to a second location on West 24th Street in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

The health and safety of visitors remains a top priority, and strict measures will be implemented in the space to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. A mask will be required for entry, and hand sanitizer will be provided. Please visit our website for further details about the guidelines and to schedule an appointment.

### About Spencer Finch

Spencer Finch is best known for ethereal light installations that visualize his experience of natural phenomena. His investigations into the nature of light, color, memory and perception manifest in watercolors, drawings, video and

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photographs. Compelled by what he describes as ‘the impossible desire to see oneself seeing’, Finch holds up an enchanting prism between the outer world and inner thought. He distills his observations of the world into glowing abstract color but also diverts them through cultural and historical filters: in homage to Emily Dickinson’s 1862 poem *Before I got my eye put out*, he measured the sunlight in her Massachusetts garden then recreated the effect of a passing cloud by means of fluorescent tubes covered in gel and suspended theatre filters. He has painted the changing shades of grey on Sigmund Freud’s ceiling in Vienna, Austria, viewed from the psychoanalyst’s couch and later, in *102 Colors from My Dreams* (2002), recorded the colors he saw in his sleep then color-matched inks to make a sequence of Rorschach blots. His monumental installation *Trying To Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning* (2014), on display at the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York, features a mosaic of hand-painted shades of blue, while his Crossrail commission for Paddington Station in London, *A Cloud Index*, will consist of a 120m long canopy depicting more than 25 cloud types.

Spencer Finch was born in New Haven, CT, USA in 1962 and lives and works in Brooklyn, NY, USA. He has a BA in comparative literature from Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, USA (1985) and an MFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design, RI, USA (1989). Solo exhibitions include Arcadia University, Spruance Gallery, Glenside, PA, USA (2019); ‘Fifteen Stones (Ryoanji)’, Fundacio Mies van der Rohe, Barcelona, Spain (2018); ‘Cosmic Latte’, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA, USA (2017); ‘Lost Man Creek’, Public Art Fund, New York, NY, USA (2016); Marfa Contemporary, TX, USA (2014), Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indiana, USA (2013), the Art Institute of Chicago, USA (2011), Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, USA (2007) and Portikus, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2003). He participated in the Folkestone Triennial, UK (2011) and the 53rd Venice Biennale, Italy (2009). Public commissions include Crossrail, London, UK (forthcoming); the Public Art Fund, New York, NY USA (2016); and The High Line, New York, NY, USA (2008).

## About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York, one in Shanghai, as well as temporary spaces opened in 2020 in East Hampton and London’s Mayfair district. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

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