

JAMES LEE BYARS

James Lee Byars was born in 1932, Detroit, Michigan. Died in 1997 in Cairo, Egypt.

Selected solo exhibitions:

2020

James Lee Byars "Kishoushi" (the Poetic Conceit), SCAI The Bathhouse, Tokyo

2019

James Lee Byars: World Question Center, Kewenig Galerie, Berlin

James Lee Byars: World Question Center, Kewenig Galerie, Palma

James Lee Byars, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit

James Lee Byars: Works 1974 – 1994, Michael Werner Gallery, London

James Lee Byars, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

2018

James Lee Byars: The Perfect Kiss, Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp

2017

James Lee Byars: The Golden Tower, at the 57th edition of the Venice Biennale, Campo San Vio, Venice

2016

James Lee Byars, Mendes Wood DM, Sao Paulo

James Lee Byars: Sphere Is a Sphere Is a Sphere Is a Sphere, Peter Lund, Oslo

James Lee Byars: The Figure of Question is in the Room, André Viana, New York

2015

The Diamond Floor, Michael Werner Gallery, London

The Moon Column and The Figure of Death, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

The Poetic Conceit and Other Works, VW (VeneKlasen/Werner), Berlin

2014

UROBOROS - James Lee Byars encounters Leon Battista Alberti, Museo Marino Marini, Florence

Is Is and Other Works, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

1/2 An Autobiography, MoMA PS1, New York

2013

Early Works & The Angel, Michael Werner Gallery, London

James Lee Byars: The Philosophical Nail -Wunderkammer-, Meessen De Clercq, Brussels

1/2 An Autobiography, Museo Jumex, Mexico City

2012

James Lee Byars, Overduin & Kite, Los Angeles
The Monument to Cleopatra, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

2011

Ordinary Madness, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

2009

James Lee Byars Lived Here, Milton Keynes Gallery, Palazzo Pesaro Papafava, Venice

2008

James Lee Byars: JB: Q.I.I.T.R. T.F.T.I.P. T.S.T., Galerie de France, Paris and Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

James Lee Byars: Five Points Make a Man, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

I'm Full of Byars: James Lee Byars - Eine Hommage, Kunstmuseum Bern; Milton Keynes Gallery, London

2007

James Lee Byars: The Art of Writing, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

2006

James Lee Byars: The Rest is Silence, Michael Werner Gallery, Perry Rubenstein Gallery and Mary Boone Gallery, New York

2005

James Lee Byars: Selected Works, Baldwin Gallery, Aspen

James Lee Byars, Barbican Art Gallery, London

James Lee Byars, Griffin Contemporary, Santa Monica

Lothar Baumgarten. James Lee Byars. In Progress IV Für Harald Szeemann, Kewenig Galerie, Cologne

2004

James Lee Byars: Letters from the World's Most Famous Unknown Artist, Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams

James Lee Byars, Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston

James Lee Byars: Life, Love and Death, Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt am Main

James Lee Byars: The Perfect Silence, The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

2003

The Moon Books: Above and Below, An Exhibition of James Lee Byars, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

2002

The Angel, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London

2001

Galerie Er Rashid, Düsseldorf

Letters to Joseph Beuys, Museum für Kommunikation, Frankfurt am Main

Works on Paper from the 1960s and 1990s and Sculpture from the 1990s, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago

Ephemera, Low, Los Angeles

2000

The Poetic Conceit and Other Black Works, Michael Werner Gallery, New York and Cologne

1999

Michael Werner Gallery, New York and Cologne

The Epitaph of Con. Art is Which Questions Have Disappeared?, Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover

1998

James Lee Byars ' Four Early Drawings and a Black Figure on the Floor, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

James Lee Byars, The Arts Club of Chicago

1997

James Lee Byars, Galerie Stadtpark, Krems

James Lee Byars ' The Palace of Perfect, Fundação de Serralves, Porto

1996

The Monument to Language, The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds

James Lee Byars - The Angel, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

Centro Damián Bayón, Instituto de América de Santa Fé, Granada

1995

The White Mass, St. Peter's Cathedral, Cologne

Artek Gallery, Helsinki

James Lee Byars ' Perfect is my Death Word, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen

James Lee Byars ' Five Points Make A Man, The Moons and Constellations, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

The Monument to Language/The Diamond Floor, Fondation Cartier pour l'art Contemporain, Paris

1994

James Lee Byars ' Frühe und neue Objekte, Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

The Death of James Lee Byars, Galerie Marie-Puck Broodthaers, Brussels

James Lee Byars ' The Perfect Love, Laura Carpenter Fine Art, Santa Fe

Graphische Räume Museum Ludwig, Cologne

James Lee Byars ' Drawings (Moon ' Eros), SCAI The Bathhouse, Shiraishi Contemporary Art, Tokyo

The Perfect Moment, IVAM Centre del Carme, Valencia

1993

Sun Moon and Stars, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart

James Lee Byars ' Is Is, Mulier Mulier Gallery, Knokke-Heist
 The Perfect Moment, Galerie Rigassi, Bern
 Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Brussels
 SCAI The Bathhouse, Shiraishi Contemporary Art, Tokyo
 Works from the Sixties, Michael Werner Gallery, New York
 Recent Works, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

1992

The Self Portrait of James Lee Byars, Vrej Baghoomian Gallery,
 New York
 The Thinking Field, Mary Boone Gallery, New York
 Is ' James Lee Byars, Galeria La Máquina Española, Madrid
 Magasin 3, Stockholm Konsthall
 Galerie de France, Paris
 Alhambra Foundation, Granada

1991

James Lee Byars ' The Path of Luck, Michael Werner Gallery, New York
 James Lee Byars ' Neue Arbeiten, Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

1990

The Perfect Thought, University of California Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley

1989

The Moment of Cleopatra, Cleto Polcina Arte Moderna, Rome
 James Lee Byars ' Old New Work, Vrej Baghoomian Gallery, New York
 Mary Boone Gallery, New York
 James Lee Byars ' The Palace of Good Luck, Castello di Rivoli, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Turin
 Galerie de France, Paris
 Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

1988

Mary Boone/Michael Werner, New York
 Hoffman Borman Gallery, Santa Monica

1987

James Lee Byars ' Zeichnungen, Galerie Fred Jahn, Munich
 The Letter Reading Society of James Lee Byars, Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

1986

The Spinning Oracle of Delphi, Delphi
 The Philosophical Palace, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf
 James Lee Byars ' Beauty Goes Avantgarde, Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

1985

Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

Mary Boone/Michael Werner, New York

1984

The Perfect Quiet, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston

Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

The Perfect Death, Philadelphia Museum of Art

1983

Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

1982

James Lee Byars im Westfälischen Kunstverein, Westfälischen Kunstverein, Münster

1981

The Perfect Kiss, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam

The Very Great Search for James Lee Byars, Palm House of De Hortus Botanicus, De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam

James Lee Byars ' Sechs Arbeiten, Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

The Classical Exhibition of the Be Quiet, Galerie Helen van der Meij, Amsterdam

The Signature of the Artist, Galerie Claude Givaudan, Geneva

1978

The Perfect Kiss, University of California Berkeley Art Museum

The Exhibition of Perfect, Kunsthalle Bern; Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard, Cambridge

1977

The Hundred One Page Book, Galerie Rolf Preisig, Basel

The First Total Interrogative Philosophy, Städtisches Museum, Mönchengladbach

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek

Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich

Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

Hear TH FI TO IN PH around this chair and it knocks you out, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York

1976

The Perfect Performance is to Stand Still, I.C.C., Antwerp

The Play of Death, Domhotel, Cologne

1975

The First Letter Show, Galerie Toni Gerber, Bern

The Holy Ghost: Opening of the Celibatarian Machine, Piazza San Marco, Venice

The Perfect Kiss, Pavillon Denon, Musée du Louvre, Paris

The Autobiography. The Perfect Epitaph. The 25 Philosophers of Amsterdam Live, I do nothing, The Wand, Galerie de Appel, Amsterdam

1974

The Perfect Love Letter, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

The Golden Tower, Galerie Rudolph Springer, Berlin

1973

Wide White Space Gallery, Antwerp

1972

Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

1971

The Golden Curb, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Black Book, Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

1969

The World Question on Belgian TV, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax

Wide White Space Gallery, Antwerp

1968

The World Question Center, The Hudson Institute, Croton-on-Hudson

1967

The Giant Man of Water Soluble Paper and Dissolved on 53rd Street, Museum of Contemporary Crafts, New York

1964

1 x 50 Foot Drawing, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh

1963

Paper of Kyoto, floor plan of a temple, Kyoto

1961

Willard Gallery, New York

1958

Museum of Modern Art, New York

Selected group exhibitions:

2020

Untitled 2020, Palazzo Grassi, Punta della Dogana, Venice

2019

El dorado, Musée des Beaux-arts, Lille, France

Blue Lines, Noire Gallery, Italy

Reductive Seduction, Chart Gallery, New York
 Artistic License: Six Takes on the Guggenheim Collection, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York
 Blickachsen 12, Stiftung Blickachsen, Bad Homburg
 The Dark Side. Chi ha paura del buio?, Musja Museum, Rome
 Japan in America: 1952-1985, Fergus McCaffrey, New York

2018

If on a Winter's Night a Traveler, Michael Werner Gallery and TRAMPS, New York
 Una furnace a Marsiglia, Fondazione Querini Stampalia, Venice
 Take Me (I'm Yours), Villa Médicis: The French Academy in Rome, Rome
 Picasso – Picabia: Histoire de Peinture, Musée Granet, Aix-en-Provence
 Vile Bodies, Michael Werner Gallery, New York
 Maison Forte, Tour Deaul, Revonnas

2017

Alchemy: Transformations in Gold, Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines
 Floor-Naments, Monnaie de Paris, Paris
 Spiritualized: As Above So Below, IMMA, Dublin
 Alchemy: Transformations in Gold, Akron Art Museum, Akron
 The Inaugural Exhibition, 1977: Marcel Broodthaers and James Lee Byars, Marian Goodman Gallery, New York

2016

Goshka Macuga: To the Son of Man Who Ate the Scroll, Fondazione Prada, Milan
 Take Me, I'm Yours, Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Copenhagen; The Jewish Museum, New York

2015

GOLD, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase
 Take Me I'm Yours, Monnaie de Paris, Paris
 Winter Show, Kamel Mennour, Paris

2014

Beyond Black, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf
 Mingei: Are You Here?, Pace Gallery, New York
 Kunst und Alchemie: Die heimliche Geliebte, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf
 Höhenrausch, Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck, Remagen
 Four Decades of Drawing, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco
 Variations on a Japanese Garden, La Casa Encendida, Madrid
 Anish Kapoor – James Lee Byars, Galerie Kamel Mennour, Paris
 Love Story. Sammlung Anne & Wolfgang Titze, Winterpalais, Haus 21, Vienna
 A letter always arrives at it's destination, La Panacée, Montpellier
 Mise en scene, Peter's Projects, Santa Fe
 Gold, Bass Museum, Miami Beach
 Flex, Kent Fine Art, New York
 The Sea – salut d'honneur Jan Hoet, Mu.ZEE, Ostende

2013

Glam! The Performance of Style, Tate, Liverpool; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz

Shakers and Movers, VeneKlasen/Werner, Berlin

Neunzehnhundertsiebzig. Material, Orte, Denkprozesse, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Luzern

Dreams of Venice, Institut Culturel Bernard Magrez, Bordeaux

Arte Postale, Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz, Berlin

The Encyclopedic Palace, 55th Venice Biennale

2012

Spirits of Internationalism: 6 European Collections, 1956-1986, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp

Gold, Belvedere, Vienna

Kewenig Galerie at Salon du Dessin, Palais de la Bourse, Paris

Auf Papier, Kewenig Galerie, Cologne

Klein ' Byars ' Kapoor, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice; ARos Kunstmuseum, Aarhus

sublim.kursiv, AJLart @ Epicentro Art, Berlin

Juwelen im Rheingold: 10 Jahre Sammlung Rheingold, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf

The Michael Werner Collection: I sat Beauty on my knees. (...) And I reviled Her., Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris

2011

KölnSkulptur 6, Skulpturen Park, Cologne

Silence and Time, Dallas Museum of Art

Flowers for Summer, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

Our Magic Hour, Yokohama Triennale 2011

I hate Paul Klee. Papierarbeiten und Künstlerbücher aus der Sammlung Speck, Leopold-Hoesch-Museum & Papiermuseum Düren, Düren

The Joy of Pleasure, VeneKlasen/Werner, Berlin

Locus solus. Impressions of Raymond Roussel, Museum Nacional Centra de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid

2010

James Lee Byars: From Life to Art and Back Again, Argos Centre for Art & Media, Brussels

The Perfect Axis, Schloss Benrath, Dusseldorf

2009

The Third Mind: American Artists Contemplate Asia, 1860-1989,

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City

KölnSkulptur 5, Skulpturen Park, Cologne

Doors of Perception: American Art and Asia, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

1968: The Great Innocents, Kunsthalle Bielefeld

The Quick and the Dead, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

Deadline, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

Nothing Up My Sleeve, Participant Inc, New York

2008

Power, Foxy Production, New York

Martian Museum of Terrestrial Art, Barbican Art Gallery, London

Old Masters, Modern & Contemporary Art and Fine Arts, Galerie Marie-Puck Broodthaers, Brussels

Pretty Ugly, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York

That Was Then, This is Now, PS1/MoMA, New York

NeoHooDoo: Art of a Forgotten Faith, PS1/MoMA, New York; Miami Art Museum, Miami

2007

Selection, Galerie Michael Werner, Cologne

KölnSkulptur 4, Skulpturen Park, Cologne

The Invisible Show, Centro José Guerrero, Granada

Byars & Beuys, Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven

2006

Worlds: James Lee Byars, Jörg Immendorff, Thomas Lehmerer, Hermann Nitsch, Reiner Ruthenbeck and others, Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen

The Materialization of Sensibility: Art and Alchemy, Leslie Tonkonow Artworks + Projects, New York

Elemental Form, L&M Arts, New York

Strange Powers, Creative Time, New York

Black and White: Drawings for Summer, Michael Werner Gallery, New York

2005

Private/Corporate III. Sammlung Daimler Chrysler ' Sammlung Heliod

Spiekermann, Daimler Chrysler Contemporary, Haus Huth, Berlin

Private view. Colour after Klein, Barbican Art Gallery, London

Sammel-Leidenschaften (Passion for Collecting), Neues Museum Weserburg, Bremen

The New Hebrews. A Century of Art in Israel, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin

The Red Carpet. Myth, Might and Everyday Life. 5th Summer of Art and Culture 2005, KISS Kunstverein, Kunst im Schloss Untergröningen

Atlas ' World Culture in Dialog, HBV Kunst Palais, Munich

A Brief History of Invisible Art, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco

2004

Singular Forms (Sometimes Repeated): Art from 1951 to the Present, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

Los Monocromos, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid

The Big Nothing, University of Pennsylvania Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia

2003

Louise Bourgeois, James Lee Byars ' Il disparut dans le silence total, Centre Pompidou, Paris

The Invisible Threat: Buddhist Spirit in Contemporary Art, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, New York

2002

The Inward Eye: Transcendence in Contemporary Art, Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston

2001

The Museum of our Wishes, Museum Ludwig, Cologne

Beau Monde: Toward a Redeemed Cosmopolitanism, SITE Santa Fe

Alchimie de la rencontre, FRAC/Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Champagen-Ardenne, Rheims

1999

Venice Biennale

1996

Dessins: acquisitions 1992-1996, Galerie d'Art Graphique, Musée

National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris

1994

Couplet 2, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

1990

Vies d'artistes, Musée des Beaux-Arts André Malraux, Le Havre

1987

Die Gleichzeitigkeit des Anderen, Kunstmuseum, Bern

ÿbrigens sterben immer die Anderen, Marcel Duchamp und die Avantgarde seit 1950, Museum Ludwig, Cologne

Documenta VIII, Kassel

1986

Choices: Making an Art of Everyday Life, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York

Sammlung Toni Gerber ans Kunstmuseum Bern, 1. Teil, Kunstmuseum Berne

Venice Biennale, Venice

1984

Skulptur im 20. Jahrhundert, Merian Park, Basel

1983

Sammlung Speck, Haus Esters und Haus Lange, Krefeld

New Art at the Tate Gallery, The Tate Gallery, London

1982

Zeitgeist, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin

Documenta VII, Kassel

1980

Venice Biennale, Venice

1977

Documenta VI, Kassel

Werke aus der Sammlung Crex, Ink, Zurich

1976

Drawing Now, Museum of Modern Art, New York

1972

Documenta V, Kassel