

John L. Moore

John L. Moore was born in Cleveland Ohio in 1939. After completing high school in 1958, he enlisted in the US Army where he served 3 years. After leaving the Army, Moore returned to Ohio to work for General Motors. He worked at GM for more than a decade. During this time, he also attended Kent State University. Moore earned a BFA and a MA in Painting.

In 1974, shortly after his graduation from Kent, he established his studio in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition to painting in his studio, Moore was an assistant curator in the Education Department of the Cleveland Museum of Art. He spent eleven years there and developed his visual eye through daily exposure to art. Since that time he has been an abstract painter, one whose imagery is informed by his concern with the African Diaspora, American history and humanism.

Moore works with a deliberately limited palette of colors and simple shapes. They are about a very personal way of interpreting a range of various events. His works can convey a wide range of emotions. They are beautiful and compelling and yet he has said 'one can read them any way one wants.'

In a number of his works, ovals are a recurring theme. In works from the early 1990's, black oval shapes served as surrogates for the presence of the figure; in later works the oval shapes represent mirrors. Moore uses the image of mirrors as a metaphor in an oblique way of referring to various contemporary issues. As they do not reflect images, the mirrors are used in a manner of questioning that, which is not seen. These mirrors, often dark, unyielding or sometimes reflecting light, are about absence, falsehoods, the denial of truths, and the search for meaning. Often the mirror appears ready to enter into/or to be exiting the painting. These images - protagonist-ovals - are carriers of missing information suggesting a more troubling placement of our own conflicted histories. As much as these works are about rather serious stuff, there is often a cartoon like presence lurking in the paintings.

Moore has received the Cleveland Art Prize and fellowships from the New York Foundations for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Joan Mitchell Fellowship, among others.

His solo exhibitions include the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, (Alabama); High Museum (Georgia); Columbus Museum of Art (Ohio); Cleveland Museum of Contemporary of Art (Ohio); the Alternative Museum (New York); Indianapolis Center for Contemporary Art (Indiana), Lehman College Art Gallery (New York); Tomoko Liguori Gallery (New York); Howard Scott, M-13 Gallery (New York); and the New England Center for Contemporary Art (Massachusetts). His work has also been represented in international exhibitions in Canada, Japan, South Korea, France, Belgium and Turkey.

His works are in many public collections including the Brooklyn Museum, (New York); High Museum (Georgia); New Jersey State Museum; Studio Museum in Harlem (New York); MIT List Visual Arts Center (Massachusetts); New York Public Library; Columbus Museum of Art (Ohio); and Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (Alabama).

Since 1985, Moore has lived and worked in New York. He currently resides in Queens and has a studio in Brooklyn.