

# Andrew Edlin GALLERY

## **Esther Pearl Watson**

Born 1973 in Frankfurt, Germany; Lives and works in Los Angeles

Esther Pearl Watson, who is based in Los Angeles, grew up in series of small towns outside of Dallas, Texas with her siblings, mother, and flying saucer-building father, Gene. Her father's flying saucers and the nomadic aspects of her childhood inspire her "memory paintings," which playfully narrate the experience of an economically precarious family living in rural America. Watson's work highlights an absurd, persistent, and particularly American optimism that only seems to grow stronger in the face of failures of family, policy and the American Dream. Watson's paintings depict farmland and highways, oil rigs and pay day loan storefronts, playgrounds and parking lots each with a brief memory written in the corner of the painting to describe the scene. All the while, glittering flying saucers dot the sky and the children, usually pictured in something of a cheerful tumble, seem to be the ones narrating the text as if recollecting the facts years later.

Esther Pearl Watson has an MFA from CalArts. Her paintings have been exhibited worldwide including at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. Her award-winning comic "Unlovable" is published in Bust Magazine and with Fantagraphics. She has published *Blood Lady Commandos* on Vice online and *Welcome to Crapland* on Adult Swim online. She has taught at Oxbow Artist Residency, The Lexicon of Sexicana at Columbia College in Chicago, and Artist-in-Residence at Grafkiens Hus in Mariefred, Sweden and is currently teaching at Pasadena Art Center College of Design.

## **EDUCATION**

2012 MFA, California Institute of the Arts

1995 BFA, Art Center College of Design

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

2023

*At Heaven's Edge: Visions*, Museum Krona, Uden, Netherlands

*Starship Pegasus*, Antonio Colombo Gallery, Milan, Italy

*Sightings*, Sun Valley Museum of Art, Ketchum, ID

*Space Gas*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

*Esther Pearl Watson: A Very Luminous Vision*, Vielmetter, Los Angeles, CA

2022

*Esther Pearl Watson: Guardian of Eden*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, NY

*Esther Pearl Watson: An Apparent Brightness*, Maureen Paley, Marina Di Luna, Hove, UK

*The Magical Mystery Tour Returns*, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2021

*Esther Pearl Watson, Safer at Home: Pandemic Paintings*, Richmond Center for Visual Arts, Western Michigan University, MI

*Esther Pearl Watson: Greenhouse*, Vielmetter Los Angeles, CA

*Dust It Off*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

2020

*20 Years Anniversary Exhibition*, Vielmetter Los Angeles, CA

*Safer at Home: Pandemic Paintings*, Vielmetter Los Angeles, CA

2019

*Esther Pearl Watson: Dream Believer*, University of Wisconsin-Parkside Fine Arts Gallery, Kenosha, WI

*Mothership*, Maureen Paley, London, UK

*Folk Art Collection of John Mitchell from Eureka Springs AR The Stink Eye*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

2018

*Esther Pearl Watson: Tire Universe*, Vielmetter, Los Angeles, CA

*April 14, 1561*, Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York

*Good Job Dream Achiever*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, Texas

*Tire Universe*, Vielmetter Los Angeles, CA

2017

*Starship Pegasus*, Antonio Columbo Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy

*Blackhole Blowout*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, Texas

*Now More Than Ever*, LACE Benefit Art Auction, Los Angeles

*For the Good Times*, Sp(a)ce, Pasadena

2016

*The 11th Annual Blab Show*, curated by Monte Beauchamp, Copro Gallery, Los Angeles

*The Furies*, Visitor Welcome Center, Los Angeles, CA

*Cocoon*, Arts Factory, Paris, FR

*Galactic Plains*, Gregorio Escalante Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

*Hearsay*, Artists Reveal Urban Legends, LosJoCos Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2015

*Atrium*, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, TX

*New Works*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

*The Future Arrives*, Galleri Galleberg, Norway

*Family Lexicon*, Antonio Colombo Gallery, Milan, IT

2014

*Sky*, Bedford Gallery, Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA

*Amazon Solitaire*, Center for the Arts Eagle Rock, Eagle Rock, CA

*Explorers*, CSC Gallery, McLennan Community College, Waco, TX

*Hexenhaus*, 495 Alameda St, Altadena, CA  
*With Open Eyes*, Grafikens Hus, Mariefried, Sweden  
*It's Not a Circus Without a Big Top*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

2013

*Esther Pearl Watson*, Vielmetter Los Angeles, CA

2012

*Hidden Behind the Stars*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX  
Permanent Collection, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY  
Cal/Arts MFA Graduate Exhibition, LA Mart, LA  
Fort Beavatron, CalArts Mint Gallery, Valencia, CA

2011

CalArts Main Gallery, Valencia, CA  
*Incognito*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA  
*Land Of Magic*, Leshar Center for the Arts, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA  
*Women in Comics*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

2010

*New Works*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

2009

*Visions of the Future*, Billy Shire Fine Art, Culver City, CA  
*Texas Instruments*, Domy, Austin, TX  
*When in Texas act like a Texan*, Webb Gallery, Waxahachie, TX

2008

3rd Annual LA Weekly Biennial, Track 16, Los Angeles, CA  
*Failure*, The Lab at Belmar, Lakewood, CO  
*Blab Show!*, Beach Museum of Art, Kansas State University, Kansas City, KS  
*LA Paint*, Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA

2007

*The Weirding Field*, La Luz De Jesus, Los Angeles, CA

2006

*What I Remember*, Mendenhall Sobieski Gallery, Pasadena, CA

2005

*Keep On Laughing*, Katherine Mulherin Contemporary, Toronto, CA

## **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA