

PEDER LUND

## JAMES LEE BYARS • BIOGRAPHY

1932 Born in Detroit, Michigan

1997 Dies in Cairo, Egypt

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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

- 2005 'Lothar Baumgarten. James Lee Byars. In Progress IV Für Harald Szeemann', Kewenig Galerie, Cologne
- 2004 'James Lee Byars: Letters from the Worlds Most Famous Unknown Artist', Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, Massachusetts  
 'James Lee Byars', Hiram Butler Gallery, Houston, Texas  
 '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
- 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 Boran 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

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 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, Düsseldorf

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 tota'l, 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 'Ephemera,' Low, Los Angeles  
 'The Museum of our Wishes', Museum Ludwig, Cologne



- 'Beau Monde: Toward a Redeemed Cosmopolitanism', SITE Santa Fe  
 'Alchemie de la rencontre', FRAC/Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain Champagne-Ardenne, Rheims
- 1999 Venice Biennale
- 1997 'Notfalls leben wir auch ohne Herz. Exemplarischen aus der Sammlung Speck', Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
- 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  
 'Übrigens 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