John McAllister
Biography

John McAllister was born in Slidell, Louisiana in 1973. He lives and works in Northampton, Massachusetts.

John McAllister, deeply drawn to the enigmatic play of light, immersed himself in its exploration through the medium of painting. His journey from California to New York proved pivotal, especially his encounter with Post-Impressionist masters at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The works of Pierre Bonnard and Henri Matisse drew him into the tradition of twentieth-century artists who strive to capture the immemorial elements of light.

In his landscapes, instead of sketching specific scenes and points of view in the natural world, McAllister creates imagined vistas inspired by the sense of the sublime experienced in the beauty of nature. The artist engages in an ever-evolving dialogue with his environment; formed as close by as the flowers planted in his garden beyond his studio door, to riding his bike for miles through the wilderness in his surrounding Massachusetts. Back in the studio he creates scenes that possess the kind of harmonious beauty only possible with a considerate understanding of the delicate balance between the oppositional forces in nature and its constant state of flux: the fleetingness of a single ray of light against the ubiquitous being of the sun: the endless cycle of creative growth into hibernation and decay.

McAllister's almost electric tonalities paint vivid and blooming scenes that embody the essence of pleasure and delight that coexist in painting and nature. His canvases defy conventional perspective, merging flat surfaces with illusions of depth set against intricate backdrops reminiscent of textiles and wallpapers. Each painting - whether a still life, landscape, or detailed interior - offers a poetic glimpse into a world where naïvety flirts with decadence.

McAllister's works are included in public collections such as The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; The Rubell Family Collection, Miami and Le Consortium, Dijon, FR.

Solo exhibitions

2024

2024 - sometimes splendid seeming...stellar even...ripping, James Fuentes, Los Angeles, USA
2024 - John McAllister, MASSIMODECARLO, Hong Kong, PRC
2024 - Sculpting Earth, Painting Sensations, Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, F

2023

2023 - sometimes symphony clatter calm, Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, D

2022

2022 - be delirious reveries ringing, Almine Rech, Brussels, B

2021

2021 - some rhapsodies radiant, Almine Rech, Brussels, B

2020

2020 - Adrift gleaming serenest rustling air, Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, D

2019

2019 - silence sounding sumptuous, James Fuentes, New York, USA
2019 - John McAllister, Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, USA

2018

2018 - cymbals of sleep uncurtain the night, James Fuentes, New York, USA

2017

2017 - botanic haunting soft-static, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, USA
2017 - Wished-for wilds, Carl Freedman Gallery, London, UK

2016

2016 - Chorus clamors sultry, Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, D
2016 - riot rose summary, Almine Rech, Brussels, B

2015

2015 - sudden thunder some motley sea, Hagiwara Projects, Tokyo, J
2015 - Sultry Spells Rapture, Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, USA
2015 - serene raving radiant, James Fuentes, New York, USA

2014

2014 - tides must exalt, James Fuentes, New York, USA
2014 - stellar crash the sea, Carl Freedman, London, UK

2012

2012 - starry sudden without blares, Shane Campbell, Chicago, USA
2012 - serenest riots away, Carl Freedman, London, UK
2012 - Duskbright Bellows, Richard Telles, Los Angeles, USA

2011

2011 - Damned Sparkling Pomp, James Fuentes, New York, USA
2011 - Damned Sparkling Pomp, Ribordy Contemporary, Geneve, CH

2010

2010 - Much Pretty Reverie, James Fuentes, New York, USA

2009

2009 - Alistair, James Fuentes, New York, USA

2008

2008 - Fire, James Fuentes, New York, USA

Group exhibitions

2025

2025 - Old Vessels, New Spirits, MASSIMODECARLO, Milano, I

2024

2024 - The beauty of things: Still life from 1900 to today, Kunsthalle, Emden, D

2023

2023 - Chromazones, Analog Diary, Beacon, USA
2023 - Particular Kind of Heaven, curated by Ali Dipp, parrasch heijnen, Los Angeles, USA

2022

2022 - In Bloom, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F
2022 - Symbiosis, Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, USA

2022 - Les Fleur du Mâle, Musée International d'Art Naïf Anatole Jakovsky, Nice, F
2022 - Unnatural Nature: Post-Pop Landscapes, Acquavella Galleries, New York, USA

2021

2021 - Marcia Hafif and John McAllister, Parts & Labor, Beacon, New York, USA
2021 - Salon de Peinture, Almine Rech, New York, USA
2021 - EXPEDITION, Brattleboro, Vermont, USA

2020

2020 - INTERIORS: hello from the living room, 1969 Gallery, New York, USA

2019

2019 - Group show, MAMCO, Geneva, CH
2019 - Contemporary Landscape, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, USA

2018

2018 - Group show, Le Consortium, Dijon, F

2015

2015 - The Shell (Landscapes, Portraits & Shapes), a show by Eric Troncy, Almine Rech, Paris, F

2014

2014 - Don't Look Now, curated by 247365, Zach Feuer, New York, USA
2014 - L'Almanach 14, Le Consortium, Dijon, F
2014 - Inside Arrangement, Mary Mary, Glasgow, UK
2014 - All a tremulous heart requires, ZieherSmith, New York, USA

2011

2011 - American Exuberance, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, USA. Catalogue
2011 - Six Pack, Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, USA

2009

2009 - Harlequin, Sister / Cottage Home, Los Angeles, USA

2008

2008 - Joan Mitchell Foundation: 2007 MFA Grant Recipients Show, Cue Art Foundations, New York, USA

2007

2007 - Greater Los Angeles Master of FIne Arts Exhibition, California State University, Long Beach, USA
2007 - The Old Unstable Stable: MFA Thesis Exhibition, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, USA

2006

2006 - 2nd ANNUAL L.A. WEEKLY BIENNIAL: MFA WMDs: Selections From L.A. Art Schools, Track 16 Gallery, Bergamot Station, Santa Monica, USA

Bibliography

"John McAllister, Much Pretty Reverie", *Time Out New York online*, June 2010.
John McAllister / Objects And Images In Recent Paintings, exhibition catalogue, New York, James Fuentes, 2017. Texts by Smith, Jason E., Robert Harrist Jr. e Richard Hawkins.
Burns, Charlotte e Emily Sharpe. "NADA dealers have a beachfront ball", *The Art Newspaper*, December 2010.
Christie, Tom e Holly Myers. "Afterschool Art", *LA Weekly*, September 2007.
Grabner , Michelle. "Chicago Reviews: John McAllister", *Artforum*, January 2018.
Honigman, Ana Finel. "John McAllister Gets All Fired Up", *Style.com*, May 2008.
Jones, Alex A.. "John McAllister: cymbals of sleep uncurtain the night", *The Brooklyn Rail*, April 2018.
Milbrath, Claire. "John McAllister at James Fuentes", *Editorial Magazine*, March 22 2018.
Pocaro, Alan. "Review: New Image Painting/Shane Campbell Gallery", *Newcity Art*, 13 September 2014.
Russeth, Andrew. "My Kind of Town: A Breeze Through Chicago in 9 Brief Reviews", *Artnews*, 24 September 2014.
Smith, Roberta. "Damned Sparkling Pomp", *The New York Times*, October 2011.
Tarmy, James. "How to Succeed as an Artsit without Relying on 'The Art World'", *Bloomberg*, December 13 2017.
Troncy, Eric. "Point de vue – John McAllister", *Numero Magazine*, December 2013.

Public Collections

France

Consortium Museum, Dijon

United States of America

Hammer Museum, Los Angeles
Rubell Family Collection, Miami