

cole sternberg

### **overview:**

Cole Sternberg is a conceptual artist who lives and works in Los Angeles.

His practice contemplates humanity's existential quandary: that of being hopelessly destructive, yet forever and inevitably linked with nature. Through varied media (including painting, sculpture, installation, performance, photography, film and writing), Sternberg positions the aspirations of humankind against the dominant and regenerative forces of the environment and the arbitration of time. For the artist, the conclusion is unavoidable. Human enterprises -- art, language, history, law, and republic -- are ephemeral / illusory endeavors that attempt to reflect, parallel, and challenge the ascendancy of nature to no avail.

In recent years, Sternberg's painting practice has centered on the environment acting as the true artist. Some pieces have incorporated poetry, suggesting imprecise narratives or descriptions that can't be fully apprehended through words. His photographs interrupt time, while historical and cultural myths are pursued and deconstructed in sculptural installations and film. These confrontations frequently materialize in instances of erasure; erasure of marks and words, erasure of history, or the erasure of the natural environment. Sternberg's works remain subversive in their unremitting search for truth, noting humanity's attempts to create beautiful permanence while failing admirably.

Sternberg has exhibited nationally and internationally, including exhibitions at the American University Museum (Washington, DC), El Segundo Museum of Art (El Segundo, CA), Hochhaus Hansa (a Ruhr.2010 Museum, Dortmund, Germany), There There (Los Angeles), Primary (Miami), David B. Smith Gallery (Denver), Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND, Los Angeles), Paris Photo (Los Angeles), Zona Maco (Mexico City), ArtBo (Bogota), Art Los Angeles Contemporary (ALAC), e105 Gallery (Berlin), LA><ART (Los Angeles), MAMA (Los Angeles & Berlin) and Praz Delavallade (Los Angeles) and There-There (Los Angeles).

His works are held by major collections throughout the world, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), the El Segundo Museum of Art (ESMoA), the American University Museum (AUM) and Deutsche Telekom. It has been featured in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Whitewall Magazine, Issue Magazine, Autre Magazine, Hercules, Denver Post, Miami New Times, LA Weekly, Art Ltd., Architectural Digest, Angeleno, Sleek, Metal Magazine, ArtNet, Cool Hunting, Santa Barbara Magazine, Huffington Post and Elephant.

### **exhibitions:**

2021:

Threads and Tensions: The Interconnected World, Yeo Workshop, Singapore (forthcoming)

2020:

Art x Action, Yeo Workshop, Singapore (forthcoming)  
Show Me the Signs, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA  
Year One, Ojai Institute, Ojai, CA  
Freestate, El Segundo Museum of Art (ESMoA), El Segundo, CA  
owls stirred the silence here and there, Pluto Projects, Los Angeles, CA

2019:

The Edge of Light, Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, CA  
Smoke & Mirrors, AF Projects, Los Angeles, CA  
the blue water was only a heavier and darker air, Peter Blake Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA  
the trees turned to shadows in a grey fog, There-There, Los Angeles, CA

2018:

A Matter of Course, The Guggenheim Gallery at Chapman University, Orange, CA  
As You Like It - C'est Comme Vous Voulez, Praz Delavallade, Los Angeles, CA

2017:

the windward side of the island, MAMA, Berlin, Germany  
elsegundissimo, ESMoA, El Segundo, CA

2016:

for a moment the concrete felt soft and warm, AiOP, New York, NY  
for a moment, it scraped, then cooled, the feet, LAXART, Los Angeles, CA  
Rob Pruitt's Flea Market, Los Angeles Nomadic Division (LAND), Los Angeles, CA  
the nature of breathing in salt, MAMA, Los Angeles, CA

2015:

are the green fields gone?, the high seas  
a moment near the sea, ARTed House + MAMA, East Hampton, NY

2014:

Erection, MAMA, Los Angeles, CA  
International Friendship Exhibition, Primary, Miami, FL  
Home, ESMoA, El Segundo, CA

2013:

Art Works, e105 Gallery, Berlin, Germany  
a moment in the sun, ARTed House, Wainscott, NY  
all his strength was concentrated in his fists, including the very strength that held him upright, David B. Smith Gallery,  
Denver, CO

2012:

you'll miss your riding lesson tomorrow, Primary, Caruso Art and Flaunt Magazine, Miami, FL  
Perpetual Conceptual: Echoes of Eugenia Butler, LAND and the Getty Museum's Pacific Standard Time, Los Angeles, CA  
All in for the 99%, Ace Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
Salon de Notre Societe, Primary, Miami, FL  
Deutsche Telekom (Detecon), Cologne, Germany  
Group Exhibition, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO

2011:

Here Lies Georges Wildenstein, Primary, Miami, FL  
I was here for just a moment, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO

2010:

One on One, Hochhaus Hansa (Ruhr.2010 Museum), Dortmund, Germany  
100 Artists See Satan, Grand Central Arts Center, Cal State Fullerton, Santa Ana, CA  
Worship, e105 Gallery, Beverly Hills, CA  
Group Exhibition, David B. Smith Gallery, Denver, CO  
Transparenz, Detecon International GmbH (presented by e105 Gallery), Bonn, Germany

2009:

and those who were dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music, American University Museum, Washington, DC  
New Works, Kinsey/DesForges, Culver City, CA  
Stained Glass + Nirvana, Fred Segal, Santa Monica, CA  
the breakup.down, symbolic nyc, New York City, NY  
Postcards from the Edge, Metro Pictures, New York City, NY

**education:**

Villanova University, B.A.  
American University, Washington College of Law, J.D.

**awards/residencies:**

WeHo Arts, Art on the Outside Grant, West Hollywood, CA  
GSM Artz Acquisition Award, Zona Maco, Mexico City  
Residency with Art Lab 21, Bonn/Berlin, Germany  
Residency with Center for Research and Creativity Casamarles (CeRRCA), Llorenc del Penedes, Spain  
Fountainhead Residency, Miami, FL

**publications:**

*my first summer in the sierra*, with John Muir, 2020, Hat & Beard Press  
*the nature of breathing in salt*, 2019, Hat & Beard Press  
*the windward side of the island*, 2017, MAMA  
*for a moment it scraped then cooled the skin*, 2016, LA><ART & Woven  
*all his strength was concentrated in his fists, including the very strength that held him upright*, 2013, David B. Smith  
*And those who were dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not bear the music*, 2010, Western Canon  
*Cole Sternberg Paintings*, 2008, Western Canon

**selected public collections:**

American University Museum of Art  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center  
Deutsche Telekom  
ESMoA  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
Pérez Art Museum Miami  
The Plaza Hotel