

LANCE-SCAPE ARCHITECTURE

A solo exhibition of drawings and paintings by Creativity Explored artist Lance Rivers.

January 12 – March 9, 2016

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 12, 7 – 9 p.m.

Creativity Explored Gallery

3245 Sixteenth Street (at Guerrero), San Francisco

Gallery hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 AM–3 PM;

Thursday 10 AM - 7 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 12 – 5 PM

Creativity Explored, the premier nonprofit visual art gallery and studio for artists with developmental disabilities, kicks off its 34th year with a solo exhibition of Bay Area native artist Lance Rivers (b. 1967). On the occasion of his 50th birthday, Rivers reimagines the region through the eyes of an artist who is deeply invested and connected to our changing landscapes. The exhibit *Lance-scape Architecture* curated by Colter Jacobsen showcases more than 70 artworks made in the past seven years. Rivers has focused on creating watercolors and sculptures that personify the architectural elements of transportation, cityscapes, tunnels, freeways, and water towers.

Rivers has an acute sense of transition and is drawn to what has been removed, what is in progress, or what has been recently built. He has diligently monitored the structures that define the Bay Area, from the Bay Bridge to Candlestick Park to Sutro Tower (included in the exhibition is a 3-D sculpture of Sutro Tower). In *Bay Bridge Construction*, 2015, watercolor and pen on paper, 22.5 x 30 inches, the new San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge stands next to the fading old Bay Bridge, acting as a public remnant of the past.

Lance Rivers' artwork ranges from minimally stripped down architectural drawings to elaborate and dense urban construction/landscapes, often encapsulated in works that are the size of a snapshot. For curator Colter Jacobsen, "Lance's architecture possesses a vibrant, uncanny, liveliness. He takes the cold edge off of urban structures and gives them warmth, heart, and breadth." From his tight or loose gestural lines to his subdued earthy palette, Rivers crafts each of his intricate architectural drawings with a unique personality. For instance, in *Cityscape*,

2016, acrylic and marker on canvas, 30 x 40 inches, Rivers renders San Francisco buildings into a densely staggering superstructure, imbued with a monstrous persona.

To Rivers, these buildings are not just structures made for city dwellers, but are like people who have grown, changed, and weathered the conditions of nature and society. In *Port of Oakland Landscape*, 2010, ink and graphite on wood, 13 x 17 inches, Rivers immortalizes the iconic seaport cranes using his fine ink work and mystifying spatial presence. He creates his very own landscape, reminding the inhabitants of this city to stop and see the world as if time stood still.

There will be an exhibition booklet released to commemorate the exhibit.

Rivers was nominated for SFMOMA's prestigious SECA Art Award in 2016. His artwork has been collected and included in numerous prominent exhibitions in the Bay Area, the U.S. and abroad, including the Here, There and Everywhere exhibition at the Sheffer Gallery in Sydney, Australia, the People's Biennial at Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit in Michigan in 2014, and Create, a traveling exhibition that first opened at University Of California Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive in 2011. Other venues exhibiting Rivers' work include Outsider Artists at the Oakland International Airport, Oakland, CA, Outside In: The Art of Inclusion at Crawford Art Gallery in Cork, Ireland in 2013, and Fabricators at Jack Fischer Gallery, San Francisco, CA in 2012.

Colter Jacobsen is an artist that lives and works in the Bay Area. He is represented by Gallery Anglim Gilbert in SF and Corvi-Mora in London and has exhibited at SFMOMA, the Istanbul Biennial, and the Baltic Triennial. Colter has worked as a care-giver and at the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually-Impaired as an art instructor. He's been a long time admirer of Lance River's work and curated Lance's first solo exhibition for the 2014 "Peoples Biennial" at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. He is a passionate advocate for Creativity Explored artists and is a vital contributor to the Bay Area arts community.

About Creativity Explored

Creativity Explored is a dynamic nonprofit art center and gallery where artists with developmental disabilities have been creating, exhibiting and selling their art for more than 34 years. Located in the vibrant cultural and dining corridor that transverses San Francisco's Mission District, Creativity Explored provides a supportive studio environment, including individualized instruction from mentoring artists, quality supplies, and professional opportunities to exhibit and sell their art, the organization establishes these artists' work as an emerging and increasingly important contribution to the contemporary art world. Founded by Florence and Elias Katz in 1983, Creativity Explored has expanded to two locations: the main gallery and studio on 16th Street in San Francisco's Mission District, and a second studio in nearby Potrero Hill. Gallery programming now includes five exhibitions per year, with more than 15,000 people visiting the gallery and studio annually. This year's calendar of event highlights includes; an all black and white monochromatic exhibition, a nudes exhibit, and a Bride of Monster exhibition. Over the years, the organization's innovative and respected programs, structure and culture have been recognized as a model worldwide in the field of art and disability. In addition to the studios, exhibitions and gallery sales, Creativity Explored has developed a licensing division, working with the likes of Google, affordable modern furnishing company CB2, and fashion house COMMES de GARÇONS; and providing art services for several properties, including BRIDGE Housing (affordable housing), and Avalon Mission Bay (upscale apartment community).

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Access Images Online for *Lance-space Architecture*: Images for *Lance-space Architecture* may be downloaded from the Press Room at the Creativity Explored website:
<http://www.creativityexplored.org/>

For more information: 415-863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org

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