

# Todd Bienvenu

## Biography



### #ToddBienvenu

Born in 1980 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Lives and works in New York, USA.

Todd Bienvenu's thick oil and acrylic paintings are expressive, resplendent and uninhibited. Emerging first from his dense figurative compositions are the power and energy of his strong colors and their spontaneous movement.

He begins by applying colors directly: abstract forms emerge, and the subjects develop naturally, excavated through the process of addition and subtraction of paint. Bienvenu never hesitates to fill his paintings with self-mockery. He takes us with him to drunken parties by the pool, stages us in our most intimate and almost shameful moment with a very thick and chromatically dense touch. He depicts beaches, alcohol, sex, tattooed rockers, urban scenes and fragments of the everyday life – his biographical universe.

Although his subjects are often burlesque, we perceive a form of underlying melancholy. Indeed, many of them are the result of a reflection that is a source of both nostalgia and solace. Embedded within the artist's sense of humor and freewheeling paint, the paintings bear within them major and timeless existential questions.

A more profound feeling, a tragic dimension offset the apparent lightness. In Bienvenu's recent work, the vulnerability of the body holds an important place. In this respect, subjects such as snowboard and skateboard crashes and then, by extension, bike and car accidents, echo the physical changes related to age and the fragility of a body that is no longer 18 years old.

Bienvenu speaks as much of the party as of its end. It is as if the deep solitude of being has been made visible, even within the most banal and "good-natured" day-to-day. Yet it is a question neither of sadness nor of resignation, it is the opposite.

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## Biography

Born in 1980 in Little Rock, Arkansas.  
Lives and works in New York.

### Education

- 2006–2007 New York Studio School, Master of Fine Arts Program, New York, NY  
2005 New York Studio School, Certificate Program, New York, NY  
New York Studio School, Summer Scholarship, Orvieto, IT  
2003 Louisiana State University, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Baton Rouge, LA

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 *JOMO*, Almine Rech Gallery, New York, NY  
2021 *Congregation*, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2020 *Halcyon Days*, Almine Rech Gallery, Shanghai, CN  
2019 *Dad Bod*, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2018 *Slapstick*, Almine Rech Gallery, London, UK  
*Jaywalk*, in collaboration with Sébastien Bertrand, Galerie Laurent Godin, Paris, FR  
2017 Solo Show at Artissima 2017, Sébastien Bertrand, Turin, IT  
*Endless Bummer*, Harper's Books, East Hampton, NY  
*Water Sports*, Yours Mine & Ours Gallery, New York, NY  
2016 *Dive*, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2015 *Exile* on Bogart Street, Life on Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
2014 *Borrowing Tomorrow's Fun*, Life on Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

### Group Exhibitions

- 2022 *Portraiture: An Ongoing Story*, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
2021 *Summer Group Show*, Almine Rech Gallery, Aspen, CO  
*Side Bar*, curated by Alicia Gibson, Underdonk, Online  
2020 *Walk the Walk benefit*, organized by Martha Tuttle and Sarah Faux, Drawer, Online  
*Come As You Are Benefitting GLITs*, Organized by Daniel Oglander, Online  
*Portraits & Some Standing Figures*, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Auguries of Innocence*, Fredericks and Freiser, New York, NY  
2019 *Still Life: An Ongoing Story*, Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*I Love Paint*, curated by Kim Dorland, Patel Gallery, Toronto, ON, CA  
*Life Size*, Slag Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
2018 *Ceremonial Exhibition: Work by New Members and Recipients of Awards*, American Academy of Arts & Letters, New York, NY

- Harper's Books at the Beverly Hills Hotel*, Los Angeles, CA  
*Tell Him What We Said About "Paint it Black,"* Thorne-Sagendorph Gallery, Keene, NH  
*New "Bad" Painting*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK  
*Paint it Black*, 1 Mile Gallery, Kingston, NY
- 2017
- Nostalgisms*, curated by Nick Benfey, Able Baker Gallery, Portland, ME  
*LIKE*, curated by Richard Kern, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Witches And Dudes*, Galleri Kant, Copenhagen, DK  
*Domestic Tranquility*, 0-0, Los Angeles, CA  
*SOME(BODY)*, Adam Baumgold, New York, NY  
*There is nothing I could say that I haven't thought before*, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY
- 2016
- Painting in New York*, Leigh Morse Fine Arts, New York, NY  
*Summer Show*, Galerie Sébastien Bertrand, Geneva, CH  
*Todd Bienvenu, Katherine Bradford, Sarah Faux*, Wythe Hotel, Brooklyn, NY  
*Frieze New York*, curated by Katherine Bernhardt, CANADA, New York, NY  
*Laughing Out Loud*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Momenta Benefit Auction*, Momenta, Brooklyn, NY  
*Go Figure!*, Louis B. James, New York, NY  
*Let's Walk*, Cuevas Tilleard, New York, NY  
*Painters NYC*, MUPO, Oaxaca, MX  
*Introspective*, BravinLee, New York, NY  
*Fort, Ess Eff Eff*, Brooklyn, NY  
*Nation IV*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*All Tomorrow's Parties*, Hathaway David Contemporary, Atlanta, GA
- 2015
- Painters NYC*, Páramo, Guadalajara, MX  
*Holiday Salon*, Lesley Heller, New York, NY  
*Post Hoc Ergo Proctor Hoc*, Firework Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Let's Go Away for Awile*, One Mile Gallery, Kingston, NY  
*Todd Bienvenu and Clintel Steed*, Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects, New York, NY  
*Summer Invitational*, Life on Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Mixtape II*, M. David Studio, Brooklyn, NY  
*Paintings in Trees*, People's Garden, Brooklyn, NY  
*Thrice Legendary, or Forever Thens*, Centotto, Brooklyn, NY  
*The Guston Effect*, Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston, MA  
*Long Story Short*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Lucky Draw*, The Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY  
*AiB Bene it 2015*, Storefront Ten Eyck, Brooklyn, NY  
*Life on March* Gallery Project Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*New Work City*, Momenta Art, Brooklyn, NY  
*Paperazzi IV*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
- 2014
- Back to the Future II*, Life on Mars, Brooklyn, NY  
*My Big Fat Painting*, Brian Morris Gallery, New York, NY  
*Full House East*, Ethan Pettit Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Full House*, David Rich, St Paul, MN

- Summer Invitational*, Life on Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Suggestion, that is the dream: Arshile Gorky and a selection of contemporary drawings*, Outlet, Brooklyn, NY  
*Drawn Out*, Brooklyn, NY  
*Legend Anew*, Centotto, Brooklyn, NY  
*Underdonk Selects*, Underdonk, Queens, NY  
*No Rules*, Brooklyn, NY  
*Mixtape*, No. 4 Studio Brooklyn Fireproof, Brooklyn, NY  
*AiB Benefit 2014*, Storefront Ten Eyck, Brooklyn, NY  
*Spring Benefit*, Novella, New York, NY  
*Sump Pumped Sentiments*, curated by Matt Philips, TSA Bushwick, Brooklyn, NY  
*Paparazzi 3*, Janet Kurnatowski Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Nation II At the Alamo*, Sideshow Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
2013 *Todd Bienvenu and Gili Levy with Katherine Bradford*, Valentine Gallery, Ridgewood, NY  
*Painting Impossible*, Life on Mars, Brooklyn, NY  
*Scale*, Life on Mars, Brooklyn, NY  
*Duck, Duck, Rabbit: EJ Hauser, Todd Bienvenu and Kelly McRaven*, curated by Mike Olin and Joy Curtis, Brooklyn, NY  
Ethan Pettit Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
Triangle Art Benefit, Brooklyn, NY  
2012 *Art=Mixx*, New York, NY  
*BOS*, New York, NY  
*Team Varet*, New York, NY  
*GO Brooklyn*, NY  
2011 Northside Brooklyn Arts Festival, New York, NY  
2010 *Nude With a Goose*, New York, NY  
*Pretty Young Things*, New York, NY  
2009 *Cinema Back Room*, Public Assembly, Brooklyn, NY  
*Si Ves Algo Di Algo*, 345 Eldert, Brooklyn, NY  
*27 Group Show*, Goette Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*New York Studio School Alumni Show*, juried by Sean Scully, New York, NY  
2008 *BOS*, Brooklyn, NY  
*Art Party 3 Supreme Trading*, Brooklyn, NY  
2007 *Thesis Show*, New York Studio School, New York, NY  
*Battling Insanity With a Paintbrush*, Gaëlle Bertrand and Todd Bienvenu, New York Studio School Student Gallery, New York, NY  
*Girls With Guns*, New York Studio School Student Gallery, New York, NY  
2003 *Todd Bienvenu*, Studio B, Little Rock, AR

### Selected Bibliography

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2020 Yaniv, Ety. "Todd Bienvenu – Stories within stories." *Art Spiel*, 28th January, 2020.  
2017 *DIVE*, Monograph published by Galerie Sébastien Bertrand and innen, 30pp. 2017.

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- 2014 "Iron & Wine and Ben Bridwell." *Philadelphia City Paper*, June 2015.
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- Schwendener, Martha. "Chasing a Dream and an Unalloyed Ethos: A Critic's Picks in Brooklyn, an Embattled Utopia." *The New York Times*, April 3rd, 2014.
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- 2013 Kirsch, Corrina. "Week One: Overrated, Underrated Exhibitions." *Art F City*, November 5th, 2013.
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- September 30th, 2013.
- 2012 Butler, Sharon. "Brooklyn Museum Go: Bushwick short list." *Two Coats of Paint*, August 21st, 2012.
- 2011 Vartanian, Hrag. "A Hot and Colorful Day on the Northside." *Hyperallergic*, 23rd, 2011.  
Sutton, Benjamin. "Northside Photo: India Street Art Festival and Day Two of Northside Open Studios." *The L Magazine*, June 20th, 2011.