



## **Geoff McFetridge**

*Us As A Landscape, Recent Figures for the Film My Blue Suit*

**June 18 -July 24, 2021**

Artist Talk: Friday July 16, 2021, Noon EST

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 2313 6456

**COOPER COLE** is pleased to present *Us As A Landscape, Recent Figures for the Film My Blue Suit*, a solo exhibition of the work of artist Geoff McFetridge. This will be the debut exhibition at our new Cooper Cole West space at 1136 Dupont Street.

McFetridge's paintings, prints, and drawings are visual maps of the artist's ethos. Invested in the legibility of an image, McFetridge is interested in how images exist in-between or outside of language, and in turn how this encourages more open-minded approaches to cognition. His works connect poetry and form, and slip between interpretations to connote the interconnectedness of people in public spaces.

This new series began with McFetridge's observations of people sitting and reclining in public spaces over the past year. According to the artist, the figures are both inspired by the landscape and landscapes unto themselves: the folds and shadows of their clothes intentionally mimic the folds of hills. Using his signature visual language of rounded shapes and slick lines, the artist depicts various people suspended in blank, ambiguous spaces. These flat, monochrome backgrounds are typical of McFetridge's work but read differently after months of isolation. While on the one hand they create a sense of introspection, on the other they speak to the simultaneity of our individual experiences, and their subsequent collectivity. In doing so, McFetridge points to the horizontality of people, and imagines a hopeful future.

According to the artist, his practice is a vocabulary of poetic thinking expressed in images. Much of McFetridge's painterly language comes from quick, observational gouache paintings made in his sketchbooks. From the first pencil study to the final painting, McFetridge's process is one of refining and simplifying. He begins by drawing shapes and bodies, and then thinks about how they can be used to create a dialogue with each other. To look at his studies and paintings is to witness a process of adjusting and fitting forms with one another visually and conceptually. McFetridge sees this as an almost mechanical process, whereby the components of his images are functional pieces that come together into something that is highly legible to a broad audience, though without a specific narrative.



**Geoff McFetridge** (b. 1971, Calgary, Alberta, Canada) McFetridge received his BFA from the Alberta College of Art and Design and his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts. McFetridge was part of the infamous *Beautiful Losers* exhibition which debuted in downtown New York in 1991 and went on to tour the world. He has continued to exhibit in international galleries including Blum and Poe, Los Angeles (2020); Cooper Cole, Toronto (2019); Half Gallery, New York (2018); V1 Gallery, Copenhagen (2016); PlayMountain, Tokyo (2013); and Heath Gallery, Los Angeles (2011). McFetridge has also been included in museum exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Santa Monica Museum of Art, the Walker Art Center, the Yale University Art Museum, and The Geffen Contemporary at MoCA Los Angeles. McFetridge currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA.



**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Us as A Landscape, 2021*  
Acrylic on canvas  
40 x 60 in (101.6 x 152.4 cm)  
G.McFetridge0114







**Geoff McFetridge**  
*In the Cracks of a Dream We See the Waking World, 2021*  
Acrylic on canvas  
40 x 60 in (101.6 x 152.4 cm)  
G.McFetridge0115





**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Stray Figures*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
48 x 64 in (121.9 x 162.6 cm)  
G.McFetridge0116







**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Sleeping Landscape*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
48 x 64 in (121.9 x 162.6 cm)  
G.McFetridge0117











**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Exactly How I Saw Them*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
48 x 64 in (121.9 x 162.6 cm)  
G.McFetridge0118







**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Looking Away*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
64 x 48 in (162.6 x 121.9 cm)  
G.McFetridge0119









**Geoff McFetridge**  
*A Passenger of the Landscape, 2021*  
Acrylic on paper  
64 x 48 in (162.6 x 121.9 cm)  
G.McFetridge0120







**Geoff McFetridge**  
*My Blue Suit*, 2021  
Video animation  
2min38  
G.McFetridge0121



**Geoff McFetridge**  
*101 Freeway Thousand Oaks (Northbound)*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
14.75 x 31 in (37.5 x 78.7 cm)  
G.McFetridge0122



**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Moods Like a Zoetrope*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
14.75 x 31 in (37.5 x 78.7 cm)  
G.McFetridge0123





**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Wilderness In His Eyes*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
14.75 x 31 in (37.5 x 78.7 cm)  
G.McFetridge0124





**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Matt at Home*, 2021  
Acrylic on paper  
10.75 x 12.5 in (27.3 x 31.8 cm)  
G.McFetridge0125



**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Will at Home, 2021*  
Acrylic on paper  
10.75 x 12.5 in (27.3 x 31.8 cm)  
G.McFetridge0126



**Geoff McFetridge**  
*Study for Girl in Blue Suit, 2021*  
Acrylic on paper  
10.75 x 12.5 in (27.3 x 31.8 cm)  
G.McFetridge0127

















## **Geoff McFetridge**

Born 1971, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Lives and works in Los Angeles, California, USA

### **Education**

- 1995 MFA, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, USA  
1993 BFA, Alberta College of Art and Design, Calgary, Canada

### **Solo and Two Person Exhibitions**

- 2020 *These Days Are Nameless*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2019 *Geoff McFetridge*, Cooper Cole, Toronto, Canada  
2018 *The Beringians*, Half Gallery, New York, USA  
*Coming Back is Half the Trip*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2017 *Test For Positive Thinking*, Rental Gallery, East Hampton, USA  
2016 *The Quiet Of Not Listening*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark  
2015 *It Looks Like It Says*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, USA  
2014 *Meditallucination*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen  
2013 *My Head Disappears When My Hands Are Thinking*, PlayMountain  
(in collaboration with Heath Ceramics), Tokyo, Japan  
2012 *Floating*, COOPER COLE, Toronto, Canada  
*The Original Awesome*, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo University  
Gallery, San Luis Obispo, USA  
*Around Us & Between Us*, Ivory & Black SOHO, London, UK  
2011 *Us as a Logo*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark  
*My Head Disappears When My Hands Are Thinking*, Heath Gallery,  
Los Angeles, USA  
2010 *The Westest*, Half Gallery, New York, USA  
2008 *Bury Me In The Sand*, Mollusk, San Francisco, USA  
*In The Mind*, Seattle Art Museum Olympic Sculpture Park PACCAR  
Pavilion, Seattle, USA  
2007 *Bend the Void*, MU, Eindhoven, Netherlands  
2006 *That Line Rhymes*, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
2005 *All Smiles Have Teeth*, Kemistry Gallery, London, UK  
2004 *The Mind Trip: There & Black & New*, Nike Spirit Room, Berlin,  
Germany  
*The Mind Trip: There & Black & New*, AD21, Tokyo, Japan  
2001 *A Way of Life*, Parco Gallery X, Tokyo, Japan  
*A Way of Life 1*, George's, Los Angeles, USA  
*The Rock Machine*, Colette, Paris, France  
2000 *The Rock Machine*, Houston Gallery, Seattle, USA  
*The Rock Machine*, George's, Los Angeles, USA

1999 *30 Days 30 Shows*, George's, Los Angeles, USA

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2020 *Sympathetic Magic*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, USA
- 2016 *Juxtapoz x Superflat*, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada
- 2015 *Incognito*, Santa Monica Museum Of Art, Los Angeles, USA  
*10 Year Anniversary Groop Show*, Mollusk Surf Shop, Venice, USA
- 2014 *Your Favorite Artist's Favorite Artist*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, USA
- 2013 *Chicken or Beef?*, curated by Jesper Elg, The Hole, New York, USA  
*Folklore*, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, USA
- 2011 *Graphic Design: Now in Production*, Walker Art Centre, Minneapolis, USA  
*Graphic Design Worlds*, La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy  
*New Works*, Heavyweight Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
*Art in the Streets*, The Geffen Contemporary at MOCCA , Los Angeles, USA  
*STATUS – Somewhere Between Position and Condition*, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2010 *Summer Drawing Show*, Family Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
*King Kong, Family Pop Up*, New York, USA  
*Wallworks*, International Print Centre, New York, USA  
*These Friends*, THIS, Los Angeles, USA  
*The Happening: Art, Film, and Music Festival*, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney, Australia  
*The Happening: Art, Film, and Music Festival*, The Brisbane Zoo, Brisbane, Australia  
*The Happening: Art, Film, and Music Festival*, The Epsy, Melbourne, Australia
- 2008 *Two Lines Align*, Red Cat Gallery in Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater, Los Angeles, USA
- 2007 *California Design Biennial*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, USA
- 2006 *Making Do*, Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, USA  
*1000 Things*, Mu, Eindhoven, Netherlands  
*Highmath* , V1 Gallery , Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2005 *Sea Donkeys on Airplane Wings (People That Surf That Make Stuff)*, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2004 *Beautiful Losers: Contemporary Art & Street Culture*, curated by Christian Strike and Aaron Rose, Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati; Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach; The Moonshine

- Festival, The Surf Gallery, Laguna Beach; The Contemporary Art Museum, Baltimore; The University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa, USA; Fondazione La Triennale, Milan, Italy; Le Tri Postal, Lille, France; Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, Poland; La Casa Encendida, Madrid, Spain; Arhus Kunstbygning, Denmark  
*The Moonshine Festival*, The Surf Gallery, Laguna Beach, USA  
*Time Is a Map of Our Failures*, Colette, Paris, France  
 2003 *National Design Triennial*, Cooper Hewitt, New York, USA  
*California Design Biennial*, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Pasadena, USA  
 2002 *Communication What*, Vasi Communication, Studio Cafumo, Venice, Italy  
*STREETWISEONE*, Apart Gallery, London, United Kingdom  
*I Love to Meet You*, Palazzo Fortuny (in collaboration with Venice City Council and Studio Camuffo), Venice, Italy  
 2001 *Move*, New Image Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA  
 1998 *Group Show*, George's Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

### Art Fairs

- 2020 Independent Art Fair, Cooper Cole, New York, USA  
 2015 Art On Paper, Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, USA  
 V1 at Volta 11, Volta, Basel, Switzerland  
 2014 Miami Art Project, Art Basel, Miami, USA  
 2013 Miami Project Art Fair, with Joshua Liner Gallery, New York, USA

### Public Art Projects

- 2015 Ottawa Light Rail Transit Project (Lyon Station Design), Ottawa, Canada  
 2014 Nike SB West LA Courthouse Mural  
 Oakley Berrics Skate Park Mural, Downtown Los Angeles, USA  
 2013 Walker Art Center Fence Mural, Minneapolis, USA  
 2008 Nike Vine Theater Project

### Awards

- 2019 Medal of the AIGA, The American Institute of Graphic Arts  
 2016 National Design Award, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum  
 2015 Award for Graphic Design, D&AD  
 2010 Award for Magazine & News Paper Design, D&AD  
 2009 Volvo Eco Design Award, California Design Biennial

- 2008 Awards for Press Advertising and Art Direction, D&AD
- 2007 Swerve Festival Best Video Award
- 2006 Star of Design, PDC Design Award, Cooper Hewitt National Design Triennial 2005 MTV Video Awards Identity Gold Award  
Gold Cannes Cyber Lion, & Gold Cannes Lion & Adweek Best Spot of the Year  
Award for Magazine & News Paper Design, D&AD
- 2004 Awards for Animation, D&AD
- 2001 Awards for Animation, Illustration for Advertising, and Mixed Media Campaigns, D&AD  
Featured in Saatchi & Saatchi New Directors' Showcase with ESPN Winter X-Games, animated spot 'Loose Clothing', Cannes International Festival of Creativity
- 2000 Design Distinction Award, The International Design Magazine

### **Selected Lectures**

- 2018 The DO Lectures, FForest, Cardigan, Wales
- 2016 Cooper Hewitt, New York, USA  
Google SPAN, Los Angeles, USA
- 2013 Insights Design Lecture Series, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA
- 2011 UCLA Design Lecture Series, Los Angeles, USA  
OFFF, Barcelona, Spain
- 2010 A+D Lecture Series, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, USA
- 2009 The DO Lectures, FForest, Cardigan, Wales
- 2007 Chicago MCA, Chicago, USA