

# JOHN SARRA

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## EDUCATION:

1995-97 M.F.A., Washington University in St. Louis, major in Painting  
1990-94 B.A., College of Charleston, major in Studio Art

## SOLO AND TWO PERSON EXHIBITIONS:

2010 ***each mountain as a valley***, Fontbonne University Gallery, MO  
2009 ***John Sarra: Tone Poems***, Schmidt Art Center, IL  
2008 ***Reflex***, Space B Gallery, NY  
2008 ***Sad Smiles and Tears of Joy***, PSTL, MO  
2007 ***John Sarra: wash drawings***, Ethical Society of St. Louis, MO  
2005 ***Living Together***, Covenant Theological Seminary, MO  
2005 ***Still Lives and Landscapes***, Space B Fine Arts, NY  
2003 ***John Sarra: Paintings***, Fontbonne University Gallery, MO  
2000 ***Particular Space (New Faces)***, Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, MO  
1999 ***(space) between us***, Forest Park Gallery, MO  
1998 ***John Sarra/You Shou-Jong***, Mong Jyau Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan  
1997 ***Recent Work***, The Gallery, University City Public Library, MO  
1995 ***John Sarra***, City Gallery, Charleston, SC  
1993 ***Scenes from Mazyck Wraggborough***, African American Art Gallery, Charleston, SC

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2010 ***wALL, Un progetto d'arte***, SRISA Gallery of Contemporary Art, Firenze, IT  
2009 ***Crescendo***, Group Performance of music and painting, St. Louis, MO  
2008 ***Out of the Box***, curated by Paige Wideman, Main Street Gallery, Cincinnati, OH  
2007 ***New and Improved***, Space B Gallery, NY  
2007 ***Transference***, Koken Art Factory, St. Louis, MO  
2006 ***Le Pouce et L'Orteil***, The Francis Schaeffer Institute, Covenant Theological Seminary, MO  
2006 ***St. Louis Symphony Showcase***, Cabanne House, Olivia Lahs-Gonzales, Curator, MO  
2005 ***Contemporary Realism***, Centre for the Living Arts, AL  
2004 ***Space B Holiday Variety Show***, Space B Gallery, NY  
2004 ***Space B Group Exhibition***, Space B Fine Arts, NY  
2004 ***Thou My Vision***, Nancy Hughes, Curator, Grace and Peace Fellowship, MO  
2003 ***Regarding Objects***, Olivia Lahs Gonzales, Curator, Sheldon Concert Hall and Art Galleries, MO, and Innsbrook Conference Center, MO  
2001 ***The Forest and the Trees***, Elliot Smith Contemporary Art, MO  
2000 ***Landscape***, Desmond E. Lee Gallery, MO  
2000 ***Fresh Work***, John Sarra, Jason Rucker, and Joseph Burwell, Halsey Gallery, SC  
1999 ***paintings (plus)***, John Sarra, Christine Amick Sarra, and Cayce Lanham, Innsbrook Conference Center, MO

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS (continued):

- 1999 ***The Artist of Faith in the New Millennium***, The Francis Schaeffer Institute, Covenant Theological Seminary, MO
- 1995 ***Annual Piccolo Spoleto Juried Exhibit***, Guest Curator Diane Gingold, Charleston, SC
- 1994 ***Young Contemporaries***, Guest Curator Eleanor Heartney, Halsey Gallery, SC

## SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- 2010-2011 ***Leaf Litter***: During the fall of 2010, John Sarra began to employ a collection of artificial plants and flowers in the format of herbarium specimens. Each specimen was reclaimed after having been lost or discarded in John's neighborhood. He received training in order to mount the original twelve specimens according to the standards of the Missouri Botanical Garden, and the small envelope "seed packet" of each specimen sheet was supplied with a set of complimentary objects which had been found under the same circumstances. The portfolio was subsequently displayed in the Garden's Monsanto Research Center. As the collection expands, images will become available as an on-line resource.
- 2000-present ***Preserve/Restore/Remember***: In September of 2000 John Sarra began the meticulous renovation and restoration of his home, which was built in 1905 in one of St. Louis's historic neighborhoods. The investigation of hidden systems and the renewal of surfaces have become indispensable to him as templates for the thought and activity of art making.
- 2003-present ***Live Oak***: In December of 2003 John Sarra and his spouse, artist Christine Amick Sarra, began a collaborative work documenting the clear-cutting, re-growth, and evolving use of nearly two hundred acres of forest and adjoining wetlands outside of Charleston, SC. Each year they have built upon a collection of photographs, drawings, paintings, and writings investigating parallels between the land and the lives of those who live with it.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2006-present **Senior Lecturer**, Painting Department, Washington University in St. Louis, MO.
- 2001-2006 **Lecturer**, Painting Department, Washington University in St. Louis, MO.
- 1997-2001 **Lecturer (Adjunct)**, Painting Department, Washington University in St. Louis, MO.
- 1997-2000 **Adjunct Faculty**, Painting and Drawing, Fontbonne University, St. Louis, MO
- 1996-2001 **Woodworker**, John Lesch Design, St. Louis, MO.
- 1994-1996 **Instructor**, Drawing, Painting, and Printmaking, Summer Art Program, Colleton County School District, SC
- 1994-1995 **Graphics Technician**, Printmaking Department, College of Charleston, SC.
- 1993-1994 **Instructor**, Drawing, Gibbes Museum School, Charleston, SC

## LECTURES/PANEL DISCUSSIONS:

- 2010 **A Structured Use: Emptiness and Opportunity in Creative Practice**. Series of two public lectures, St. Louis Art Museum, MO
- 2009 **Looking Down at the Sky**, Gallery talk in conjunction with the exhibition John Sarra: Tone Poems, Schmidt Art Center, IL

## LECTURES/PANEL DISCUSSIONS (continued):

- 2008 **Moved by this Stillness**, Classroom Lecture for “Ancient Worlds to Contemporary Practice”, Washington University in St. Louis, MO
- 2007 **Spirit and Flesh: The Language of Painting in Oil and Ink.** Series of two public lectures, St. Louis Art Museum
- 2007 **Gardens and Gazing Stones: *Gongshi* as Templates for Creative Action.** Public lecture accompanying the exhibition John Sarra: wash drawings. St. Louis Ethical Society, MO.
- 2006 **Creation, Production, and the Necessity of Change.** Public lecture with Washington University graduate and undergraduate Painting Majors, in conjunction with the exhibition curated by John Sarra and Robin Clark, St. Louis Art Museum.
- 2006 **Focus on Philip Guston.** Series of two public lectures accompanying the exhibition curated by John Sarra and Robin Clark, St. Louis Art Museum.
- 2005 **Living in the Garden: Color and the Infinite,** Classroom Lecture for “Ancient Worlds to Contemporary Practice”, Washington University in St. Louis, MO
- 2003 **Color in Contemporary American Painting,** Keynote Speaker for the International Color Conference, Fu Jen University, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003 **Color Culture in Taiwan,** Panel Discussion as a part of the International Color Conference, Fu Jen University, Taipei, Taiwan
- 2003 **The Calligraphy of Fu Shen,** Panel Discussion, Saint Louis Art Museum, MO
- 2003 **Living in the Garden: Asian Aesthetic,** Classroom Lecture for “Ancient Worlds to Contemporary Practice”, Washington University in St. Louis, MO
- 2000 **Fresh Work,** Panel Discussion in conjunction with the exhibition, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC