

Titus Kaphar

(titus ka-far)

Born 1976 in Kalamazoo, Michigan

Lives and works in NYC & Connecticut

From Jack Shainman Gallery:

His artworks interact with the history of art by appropriating its styles and mediums.

interact with art history by appropriating

Kaphar said of his work: "I've always been fascinated by history: art history, American history, world history, individual history – how history is written, recorded, distorted, exploited, reimagined, and understood. In my work, I take the materials of historical objects – print and silk. I often borrow from the historical canon, and then alter the work in some way. I cut, crumple, shroud, shred, stitch, tar, twist, bind, erase, break, tear, and turn the paintings and sculptures I create, reconfiguring them into works that nod to hidden narratives and begin to reveal unspoken truths about the nature of history. Open areas become active absence, walls enter into the portraits, stretcher bars are exposed, and structures that are typically invisible underneath, behind, or inside the canvas are laid bare, revealing the interior of my work. In so doing, my aim is to perform what I critique, to reveal something of what has been lost, and to investigate the power of a rewritten history."

I cut, crumple, shroud, shred, stitch, tar, twist, bind, erase, break tear, and turn

unspoken truths about the nature of history

In a 2009 review in *Art in America*, Michelle Grolso wrote, "Kaphar's practice is more than a modernist revision of a redux of the dichotomy between painter and painting. Instead, he creates new historical narratives from the physical residues and in-between spaces of the past. These works are a deeply personal response to imagined memories turned into unrecognizable histories long ago. Perhaps they are a nod to collective histories yet to be discovered, or a reconciliation for those that never will."

nod to collective histories yet to be discovered / reconciliation for those that never will

<http://www.jackshainman.com/artists/titus-kaphar/>



Titus Kaphar
"Error of Repetition
(Where are You?)"
Oil on canvas
2011



Titus Kaphar
"Watching Tides Rise"
Oil and tar on canvas
2012



Titus Kaphar
"Behind the Veil of Benevolence"
Oil on canvas
2014



Informational text panel on the wall.

Titus Kaphar
"Tax Collector" Installed With Gainsborough
Oil on canvas
2011





Titus Kaphar
Making Space artist intervention during the opening of
Re-Interpreting the European Collection
September 1, 2011



Titus Kaphar
"The Jerome Project (My Loss)"
Oil, gold leaf, and tar on wood panel
2014