

**Lucien Smith: *Southampton Suite***

August 7, 2020 – January 31, 2021  
Parrish Art Museum  
279 Montauk Highway in Water Mill

**PRESS CONTACT**

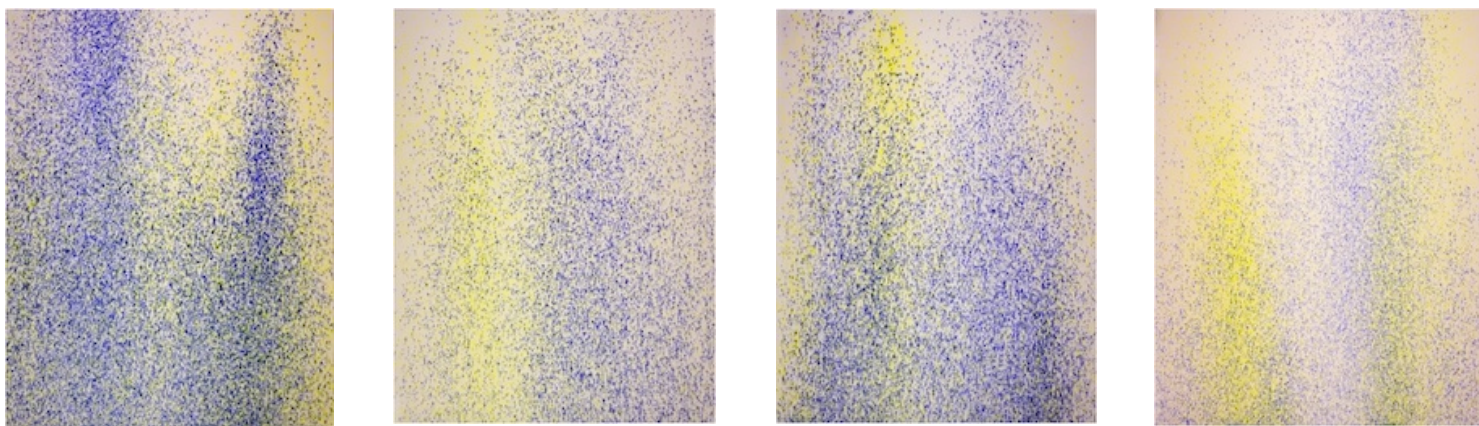
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Images: [www.molly.nyc/smithparrish](http://www.molly.nyc/smithparrish)

**Lucien Smith to present his first solo museum exhibition, *Southampton Suite*, from August 2020 through January 2021 at the Parrish Art Museum**

*Smith, who has rejected traditional gallery representation in favor of direct sales that support his 501(c)(3) creative platform and cross-media artist incubator, Serving the People (STP), will exhibit the ten final works from his Rain Paintings series*



From left: *LSMI – 5 (Blue & Yellow)*; *LSMI – 10 (Blue & Yellow)*; *LSMI – 2 (Blue & Yellow)*; *LSMI – 1 (Blue & Yellow)*  
All 2013, acrylic on unprimed canvas, 108 x 84 inches

**Long Island, NY – August 2020** – At the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill, the Montauk-based painter Lucien Smith (b. 1989) will exhibit the ten final works he created as part of his iconic *Rain Paintings* series. Smith began the body of work in 2011, discovering that filling fire extinguishers with acrylic paint enabled him to make quick, improvisational gestures whose light, ethereal end result expressed something he hadn't been able to attain with traditional mark-making methods. He made the majority of *Rain Paintings* in 2011 and 2012, then gave the technique a final encore in 2013 while staying in Southampton for the summer – the result of which constitutes the *Southampton Suite* that will be on view at the Parrish. Each canvas in the series is nine by seven feet.

“The process is very much like dancing with paint, how a conductor controls an orchestra,” said Smith. “The nozzle of the extinguisher acts like a wand. For me, the *Rain Paintings* were always about subtle perfection. I became fixated on trying to understand, measure, and capture that fleeting moment. It became an obsession... wanting something to be perfect. The *Southampton Suite* represents that moment... when one achieves greatness. In my mind, I had finally perfected the process I'd devoted two years of my life to.”

Smith has exhibited with galleries including Marianne Boesky Gallery, Moran Bondaroff, Gagolian, Half Gallery, Salon 94, and Skarstedt Gallery – but has repeatedly declined exclusive representation, instead choosing to sell independently. Stemming from his principles regarding the democratization of art, he uses his direct art sales to fund his 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Serving the People (STP), which provides artists with practical resources and support as well as a noncommercial platform to present

their work (while receiving 100% of the proceeds of their own sales). “I think the lack of transparency in the art market holds art back from its pure potential and limits it to being merely transactional. I want to free the arts from the economy that suffocates it,” Smith explained.

Smith owns all ten of the works that will be on loan to the Parrish, and considers the exhibition to be a major nod to his philosophy that artists don't need gallery representation to attain the career milestone of an institutional exhibition. Said Smith:

“I believe this show is a step in the right direction, for myself and for the younger generations of artists to come. A lot of people doubted I could get here without a gallery and without ‘playing ball’ with the art world. It’s about putting power back into the artists hands. Without us, there is no art world or art market. The art world wants you to think you need them to have success, to be taken seriously. But that’s just not the case. It’s a long road for us ahead, but I'm excited to be on that journey. I’m very thankful to the Parrish and exhibition organizer Alicia Longwell for giving me such an amazing opportunity and platform.”

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### **ABOUT SERVING THE PEOPLE**

Serving the People (STP), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit launched by Lucien Smith in 2015, offers education and resources to a global community of artists. Central to the initiative is an online platform for creatives to show their work and make commission-free sales. STP offers a steady stream of virtual and in-person programming for its artist community as well as the public. An additional wing, The STP blog, provides young writers with the opportunity to develop their editorial skills through interviewing and profiling creatives across all mediums. STP’s COVID-19 response was to stage an open-call exhibition for BFA students who had lost out on the biggest moment of their academic career; a virtual opening on May 21 attracted thousands of visitors.