

HOWARD SHERMAN

You walk along the corridor towards the back room where it awaits. Once inside, you are consumed. There is no turning away. You must approach closer and examine. You must do this because the painting before you is alive with fervor.

It hangs loosely, cloaking the wall behind. It is huge, conspicuous. Raw, yet sophisticated. The colors yell and whisper simultaneously. Sashes of canvas dangle off it like limbs ready for physical contact if approached. Some are vibrant in color and design, while others remain in their original muted state. You surmise each appendage, severed and jagged, came from a previous existence, a different artistic endeavor. They were hacked off in a rush while scrambling to complete the latest piece, like a botched surgery with an unintentional beautiful outcome.

But you know better. You know there is purpose and precision with each mark. The canvas is pulsating and each creative touch was meant to spark your current visceral reaction.

DEBORAH S. SHERMAN

HOWARD SHERMAN

Since receiving his M.F.A. in painting and drawing from the University of North Texas in 2006, Howard Sherman (b. 1970) has been leading a new generation of super-charged contemporary painters in the Texas art world. Sherman's human-scale canvases carry traces of his background in cartooning, demonstrating a playful sense of humor. In addition, Sherman's smaller works on paper show an intuitive use of materials. The large paintings emphasize Sherman's physicality as an artist, and illustrate a keen sense of resolution. The paintings also manifest a thoughtful integration of art historical styles, punctuated by his bold use of abstract mark-making. The work can be read as portraits, punch lines, or even poems.

Two years after completing his M.F.A., Sherman was featured in a solo traveling exhibition originating at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas. His work is in several museum collections and is on permanent display at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. Sherman has been profiled several times in *New American Paintings*; moreover, his work appears in the 2010 volume *Texas Artists Today*. A painting by Sherman was also chosen for the cover of the art history book *Texas Abstract: Modern/Contemporary* by Michael Paglia and Jim Edwards.

Sherman lives and works in New York City and Houston.

