



# Liat Yossifor: Pre-Verbal Painting

*Pre-Verbal Painting* is the first Midwestern solo museum exhibition of Israeli-born, Los Angeles-based artist Liat Yossifor, which features all new work made specifically for CAM. Visually recalling the aesthetics of cave painting and the intuitive act of finger painting, Yossifor's work is abstract, yet viewers may discern recognizable symbols within the composition.

Her gestural approach produces an impasto surface that records her physical act of art-making: the artist first applies thick layers of oil paint in various colors, including burnt sienna, green, blue, and yellow, onto a white painted background, then uses her body to vigorously mix and sculpt the material until the once-vibrant pigments meld into a rich gray tone. Manipulating the surface as if a sculptural medium, she scores, incises, and smudges the paint with her hands and the handles of paintbrushes. Yossifor has three days to complete the painting before the material hardens beyond a workable state. The resulting compositions are based solely on the artist's physical, ritualistic, and trance-like interaction with the paint, furthering an approach pioneered by the action painters of the 1950s.

Yossifor's work is at once temporal, pictographic, and pre-verbal, reflecting the artist's desire to access an innate and automatic creative state. While her paintings border on the monochromatic, subtle traces of primary color reveal the laborious and experimental process behind each one. Through this practice, Yossifor attempts to create a visual record of the cathartic act of expression.

*Liat Yossifor: Pre-Verbal Painting* is organized by Jeffrey Uslip, Chief Curator of the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.

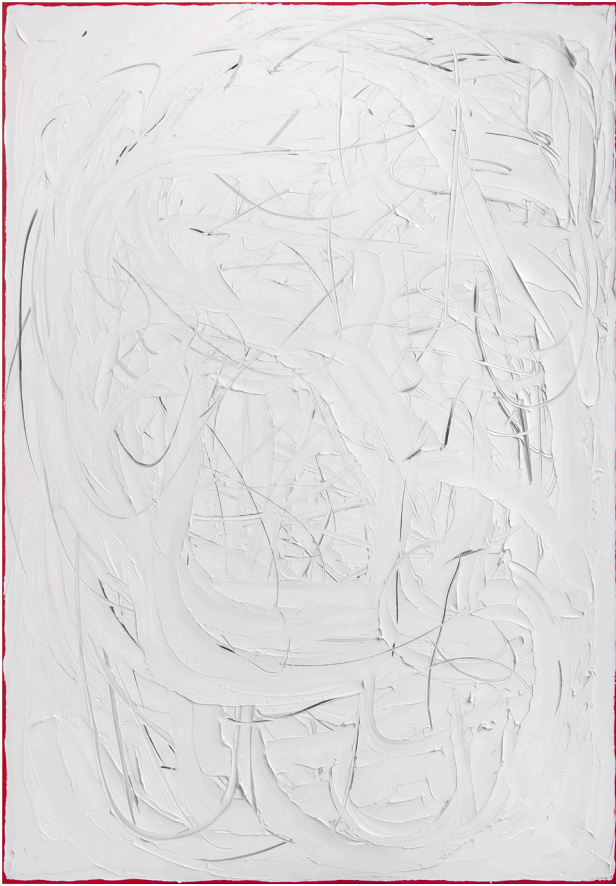


Liat Yossifor, *Yellow II*, 2015. Oil on linen, 62 × 60 inches.  
Courtesy the artist and Ameringer McEnergy Yohe Gallery, New York.



## Audio Tour

Download the CAM app at [camstl.org/app](http://camstl.org/app) or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artist on the audio tour.



Liat Yossifor, *Pre-Verbal Red*, 2015. Oil on linen, 62 × 60 inches.  
Courtesy the artist and Ameringer McEnergy Yohe Gallery, New York.

**Liat Yossifor** (b. 1974, Israel) lives and works in Los Angeles. She has exhibited widely, both nationally and internationally. Solo exhibitions include *Liat Yossifor: Thought Patterns* at Ameringer McEnergy Yohe, New York (2012); *Liat Yossifor: Falling into Ends* at Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt, Germany (2010) and *Liat Yossifor: The Tender Among Us* at the Pomona College Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2007). Group exhibitions include *Stolen Gestures* at Kunsthau Nuremberg, Nuremberg, Germany (2013) and *A Reflected Gaze*, Torrance Art Museums, Torrance, California (2010).



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