

Biography

Born in Mont Saint Martin, France, Lapuh moved to the USA after a short stint working with a stone cutter in Zurich, Switzerland. He began his art studies in sculpture at the Massachusetts College of Art.

While traveling overland from France to India and on to Australia, Lapuh's emphasis shifted to drawing and painting. Coming back to the United States he spent two years living in Florida. His first public show, featuring surrealistic figurative works on canvas, was in West Palm Beach.

After his return to Boston, Lapuh enrolled at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. His paintings became progressively more abstract; texture and form taking precedence over narration. Sculpture reappeared in his work as he began to build out his canvases, and he began to focus on the contrast between flat and 3-dimensional forms and between the real and the illusory.

Around this time, Lapuh developed a series on prison. The idea of being imprisoned within a cube gave birth to the 'corner', the point at which walls meet. Highly textured, geometric canvases and muted colors were characteristic. Now even more abstract in its form, the 'corner' is still a prevalent image in his work.

Lapuh received his Diploma from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 1989, completing the Fifth Year Program there in 1990. After his first public showings in Boston, Lapuh began to move away from formal, almost rigid forms, to more organic and emotionally charged shaped-paintings. He moved the sculptural element to the edges of the canvas and experimented with vivid colors on the flat surface in between. Brilliant red, yellow, orange and blue were new to his work.

2005 marked a return to basic geometric forms on rectangular canvases. Lapuh began to experiment with repeating patterns of raised geometric shapes, working with wood cut-outs, each slightly tilted at an angle, and painted to give a greater illusion of depth. Art critic and curator Tom Grabosky noted, "One can get lost in the depths of [the paintings'] visual possibilities as the eye jumps back and forth from level to level of interaction with a nearly infinite number of juxtapositions to savor."

In his most recent works, now including free-standing sculpture, Lapuh combines his wood cut-out technique with shaped-paintings in a new body of work that explores organic forms, texture and symbolism.

Lapuh's creations, past and present, blur the distinction between painting and sculpture. His visually captivating work is characterized by complexity, inventiveness and meticulous craftsmanship.