

Andrew Kreps  
Gallery

22 Cortlandt Alley,  
New York, NY 10013

Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm  
andrewkreps.com

Tel. (212)741-8849  
Fax. (212)741-8163

# Michael E. Smith

## TANKS

Michael E. Smith  
*TANKS*  
55 Walker  
April 11 - May 10, 2025

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce *TANKS*, an exhibition by Michael E. Smith (b. 1977, Detroit) at 55 Walker.

Michael E. Smith uses objects as language. Collection and selection are at the crux of his practice, as he often begins with what he refers to as “material sketches” in his studio. In Smith’s hands, the anonymous becomes intimate. Consumer products bear the traces of use, suggesting both their former lives and functions. Simultaneously, ephemeral materials taken from the natural world are transformed through Smith’s intervention - taxidermy is encased in resin, or elsewhere, coral, leaves, and fossils are shaped to resemble recognizable forms. Brought together in Smith sculptures, these components enact a tenuous balance between preservation and degradation, illustrating time as both a generative force, and one of destruction. While these combinations evoke the waste and erosion that defines our culture, they also are deeply rooted in the everyday, building a distinct emotive resonance, which oscillates between humor and despair. Smith alters the spaces of his exhibitions, through the addition of sound, as well as alterations to existing architectural features and lighting. In turn, site becomes an active participant in the shaping of his work, as his interventions not only affect his works themselves, but what surrounds them. Negative space, or the absence between works, becomes a material in itself. As each element of Smith’s installations brings its own accumulated histories and referents, Smith’s exhibitions become a form of sculptural prose, pointing towards the fragility of our lived environment.

Michael E. Smith’s exhibition at 55 Walker was developed in parallel to his project *A Handful of Eggs*, a series of curated events at Giorno Poetry Systems presented from April 11 - 13. Conceived as what the artist describes as “4-D mixtapes,” the five events aim to create unique, intimate environments, incorporating sculpture, light, as well as musicians Smith loves. For the full schedule and tickets, visit Giorno Poetry Systems.

Michael E. Smith lives and works in Providence. Past solo exhibitions of Smith’s work include Kunstmuseum Winterthur, 2024, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK, 2023, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, 2021, secession, Vienna, 2020, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, 2018, MoMA PS1, New York, 2017, 500 Capp Street, San Francisco, 2017, S.M.A.K., Ghent, 2017, Kunstverein

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2015, The Power Station, Dallas, 2014, and La Triennale di Milano, Milan, 2014, among others. Additionally, Michael E. Smith was included in *Quiet as it's Kept*, the 2022 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, *May You Live in Interesting Times*, 58th edition of the Venice Biennale, Venice, 2019, and the 2012 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Smith's work is held in the collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany, MCA Chicago, Museum National de Monaco, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, SMAK, Ghent, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

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55 WALKER



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Drawing of my son, green  
12 x 9 1/2 inches (30.5 x 24.1  
cm.)  
(MES25-008)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Mirrors  
6 x 13 1/2 x 25 inches (15.2 x  
34.3 x 63.5 cm.)  
(MES25-009)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*bills*, 2025

Beds  
50 x 33 x 80 inches (127 x 83.8  
x 203.2 cm.) overall  
(MES25-007)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Page from book, red  
18 x 22 inches (45.7 x 55.9  
cm.)  
(MES25-002)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Die, bowls  
9 x 10 x 9 inches (22.9 x 25.4 x  
22.9 cm.)  
(MES25-001)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Tanks  
21 x 85 x 123 1/2 inches (53.3  
x 215.9 x 313.7 cm.) overall  
(MES25-003)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Automobile diagnostic scanner  
10 3/4 x 26 x 40 inches (27.3 x  
66 x 101.6 cm.) overall  
(MES25-004)



MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled*, 2025

Tank  
12 1/2 x 12 1/2 x 30 inches  
(31.8 x 31.8 x 76.2 cm.)  
(MES25-005)

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MICHAEL E. SMITH  
*Untitled, 2025*

Rubber gloves, chair, tanks,  
box, toys  
41 x 48 x 102 inches (104.1 x  
121.9 x 259.1 cm.) overall  
(MES25-006)

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# Michael E. Smith

BORN 1977 IN DETROIT  
LIVES AND WORKS IN PROVIDENCE, RI

## EDUCATION

2008	MFA Yale University School of Art, New Haven
2006	BFA College for Creative Studies, Detroit
2005	AICAD New York Studio Program, New York

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025	<i>A Handful of Eggs</i> , Giorno Poetry System, New York, NY <i>TANKS</i> , Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY <i>Michael E. Smith invited by Cédric Fauq</i> , Crèvecœur, Paris
2024	Kunst Museum Winterthur, Winterthur, Switzerland
2023	Modern Art, London, UK Galleria Zero, Milan, IT Henry Moore Institute, Leeds, UK Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY
2022	Nonaka-Hil, Los Angeles, CA (with Tatsuo Ikeda) Modern Art, London, UK
2021	Pinakothek der Moderne, München, Germany
2020	Secession, Vienna, Austria Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY
2019	Stuart Shave Modern Art, London, UK KOW, Madrid, Spain
2018	Atlantis Lumière, Marseille, France What Pipeline, Detroit, MI Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, Switzerland MSU Broad, East Lansing, MI
2017	MoMA PS1, New York, NY The 500 Capstreet Foundation, San Francisco, CA S.M.A.K., Ghent, Belgium Michael Benevento, Los Angeles, CA Joseloff Gallery, Hartford Art School, Hartford, CT KOW, Berlin, Germany

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- 2016 Lumber Room, Portland, OR  
*Pig*, CAPRI, Dusseldorf, Germany  
ZERO..., Milan, Italy  
Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 Kunstverein Hannover, Hanover, Germany  
De Appel, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Michael Benevento Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY
- 2014 Lulu, Mexico City, Mexico  
Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK  
Susanne Hilberry, Detroit, MI  
Power Station, Dallas, TX  
La Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy  
Reserve Ames, Los Angeles, CA
- 2013 CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France  
KOW, Berlin, Germany  
Clifton Benevento, New York, NY  
Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany
- 2012 Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal  
Zero, Milan, Italy
- 2011 Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louis, MO  
Mönchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany  
Susanne Hilberry, Detroit, MI
- 2010 KOW, Berlin, Germany  
Clifton Benevento, New York, NY
- 2009 KOW ISSUE 3, KOW, Berlin, Germany  
Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, Michigan (with Kate Levant)
- 2008 Ackerstrasse 18, Berlin, curated by Nikolaus Oberhuber  
Jenny Jaskey, Philadelphia, PA
- 2007 Susanne Hilberry Gallery, Ferndale, Michigan (with Kate Levant)  
*Fences and Windows*, Modern Art Gallery, London, UK  
*Baltic Triennial 13: Give Up the Ghost*, Contemporary Art Centre,  
Vilnius, Lithuania; Tallinn Art Hall, Estonia; Kim? Riga, Latvia  
*Converter*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland  
*This is a Pipe: Realism and the Found Object in Contemporary  
Art*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL  
*A Simple Fraction*, Doyers, New York, NY
- 2017 *Beyond the box. Dohmen Collection*, Leopold Hoesch Museum,  
Düren, Germany  
*We Just Fit, You and I*, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts,  
Cambridge, MA  
*The Gap between the Fridge and the Cooker*, The Modern  
Institute, Glasgow, Scotland  
*"All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace"* Palais de Tokyo,  
Paris, France  
*Utopia/Distopia*, MAAT– Museu de Arte, Arquitetura e Tecnologia,  
Lisbon, Portugal  
*99 Cents or Less*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, MI

- Sunlight arrives only at its proper hour*, curated by Olivia Shao and Mitchell Albus, 365 S. Mission Rd., Los Angeles, CA  
*We Just Fit, You and I*, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, MA  
Essex Street, New York, NY  
2016 *Interlude*, Cookie Butcher, Antwerp, Belgium  
*Concrete Islands*, Kayne Griffin Corcoran, LA  
*See sun, and think shadow*, Gladstone Gallery, New York, NY  
2015 *Out of the Dark*, KOW, Berlin, Germany  
*Walks and displacements*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY  
*The Pump*, curated by Jennifer Teets, Royal College of Art Dyson Building, London, UK  
*Nature, Art and Ecology*, curated by Margherita de Pilati, Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, Italy  
*A Walk*, Tripoli Gallery of Contemporary Art, East Hampton, New York, NY  
*Multi-Channel: Currents in Contemporary Video Art*, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas, TX  
*System of a Down*, Ellis King, Dublin, Ireland  
*Être Chose*, Treignac Project, Treignac, France  
*Albert the kid is ghosting*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK  
*Le Souffleur. Schürmann trifft Ludwig*, Ludwig Forum Aachen, Aachen, Germany  
2014 *Anagramma*, curated by CURA, Basement Roma, Rome, Italy  
*The Unwinding*, Cookie Butcher, Antwerp, Belgium  
*The Little Things Could Be Dearer*, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, New York, NY  
*The Registry of Promise: The Promise of Moving Things*, Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry– le Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine, France  
*humainonhumain*, Foundation d'Enterprise Ricard, Paris, France

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 *Inaugural Exhibition*, The Campus, Hudson, NY  
2022 *INTROVERSE: ALLEGORY TODAY*, 80wse, New York, NY  
*METTERE AL MONDO IL MONDO*, Thomas Dane Gallery, Naples, Italy  
*Drum Listens to Heart*, CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco, CA  
*Whitney Biennial 2022: Quiet as It's Kept*, New York, NY  
*Our Silver City, 2094*, Nottingham Contemporary, Nottingham, UK  
*The Imaginary Sea*, Curated by Chris Sharp, Fondation Carmignac - Villa Varmignac, La Courtade, France  
2020 *Permafrost*, MO.CO Montpellier Contemporain, Montpellier, France  
2019 *Since Last We Met*, Simon Lee Gallery, New York, NY  
*Form and Volume*, curated by Jens Hoffman, Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Lisbon, Portugal

- Emissaries for Things Abandoned by Gods*, Casa Barragan, Mexico City, Mexico  
*May You Live in Interesting Times*, 58th edition of the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy  
WE BURN OUR DREAMS JUST TO STAY WARM, *CAPITAL*, San Francisco, CA
- 2018 *Sculptures*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY  
*Fences and Windows*, Modern Art Gallery, London, UK  
*Baltic Triennial 13: Give Up the Ghost*, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania; Tallinn Art Hall, Estonia; Kim? Riga, Latvia  
*Converter*, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland  
*This is a Pipe: Realism and the Found Object in Contemporary Art*, Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago, IL  
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*"All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace"* Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France  
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*The Registry of Promise: The Promise of Moving Things*, Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry– le Crédac, Ivry-sur-Seine, France  
humainonhumain, Foundation d'Enterprise Ricard, Paris, France  
*Soft Material*, Wallspace, New York, NY  
*Merzen*, LiveInYourHead, Geneva, Switzerland  
*Another Look at Detroit: Part 1 and Part 2*, Marlborough Chelsea; Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY  
*Technokinesis*, Blum & Poe, New York, NY  
*Little Forest*, TOR 13, Bremen, Germany  
*Surplus living group exhibition*, KM Tempoer, Berlin, Germany  
*Geographies of Contamination*, David Roberts Art Foundation, London, UK  
*Vom Dasein & Sosein, Skulptur, Objekt & Bühne*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2013 *After Nature. Arbeiten aus der Sammlung Gaby und Wilhelm Schürmann*, Collector's House, Sittard, Netherlands  
*Of Love, Pain and Passioned Revolt. (Then Farewell, My Beloved, Til' It's Freedom Day)*, Zero, Milan, Italy  
*Painting from the Zabłudowicz Collection: Painting in the 2.5th Dimension*, Zabłudowicz Collection, London, UK  
*Realization is Better than Anticipation*, MOCA Cleveland, Ohio  
*Anonymous. Eine Ausstellung über den Gegenwert*, Brandenburgischer Kunstverein Potsdam, Germany
- 2012 *Believers*, KOW, Berlin, Germany  
*A Disagreeable Object*, Sculpture Center, New York, NY  
*Exhibition of Work by Newly Elected Members and Recipients of Honors and Awards*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY  
Whitney Biennial 2012, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY  
*Le Silence. Une fiction*, Monaco National Musée Nouveau, Monaco  
*Everyday Abstract- Abstract Everyday*, James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY
- 2011 *Real Simple / Selections from the collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg*, Riverview School, East Sandwich, MA  
*Heads with Tails*, Harris Lieberman, New York, NY  
*The Moment Pleasantly Frightful*, curated by Chris Sharp, Laura Bartlett Gallery, London, UK  
*Segalega*, Zero, Milan, Italy  
*Proposal for a Floor*, curated by Alex Gartenfeld, 1500 Broadway, New York, NY
- 2010 *The Island*, LAND/OHWOW, Miami, FL  
The Artist's Institute, New York, NY

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- The Unreadymade*, Formcontent, London, UK  
*The Art of the Artist's Book*, Oakland University Art Gallery,  
Rochester, MI  
*Everlasting Gobstopper*, Michael Benevento, Los Angeles, CA  
*10 Years of Contemporary Art at the Oakland University Art Gallery:*  
*Director's Selection*, Rochester, MI  
*River Droite Rive Gauche*, Paris, France
- 2009 *The Living and the Dead*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise, New York, NY  
*Blood Drive*, Zach Feuer Gallery, New York, NY  
*If the Dogs are Barking*, Artists Space, New York, NY  
*All the Splendors of the Earth*, Center Gaölery, Detroit, MI
- 2008 *veiw (fourteen): Hooking up*, curated by Klaus Kertess, Mary Boone,  
New York, NY  
*if I told you...*, Oliver Kamm 5BE, New York, NY  
Sunshine, Rental Gallery, New York, NY  
ASP, Showroom, Leipzig, Germany
- 2007 *Argo Bongo*, Rivington Arms, New York, NY  
*Perfect Lovers*, BC Project Room, Brooklyn, NY  
*Stuff*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, MI
- 2006 *Attic*, Anton Kern Gallery Annex, New York, NY  
Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, Summit, New Jersey  
*Rich Rich Rich*, Rich Rich Rich Project Space, Shelby Township, MI
- 2005 *Video*, Brewster and Seven, Chicago, MI  
*Detroit Biennial: Actual Size*, Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit,  
Detroit, MI  
*Here Comes the Sun*, Commonwealth Gallery, Detroit, MI

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Stavanger Art Museum, Stavanger, Norway  
Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH  
Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH  
Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University,  
East Lansing, MI  
Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA  
Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL  
Les Abattoirs - Musée d'art moderne et Frac Midi-Pyrénées,  
Toulouse, France  
Ludwig Forum, Aachen, Germany  
Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and  
Rovereto, Italy  
MCA Chicago, IL  
MIT, Cambridge, MA  
Museum National de Monaco  
Mudam, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg  
Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI  
Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR

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SMAK, Ghent, Belgium  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY