

# ERIC LEE

## Ignited Reality

Virtual Exhibition

Open to View Friday, May 28, 2021  
Virtual Exhibit at [pablocenter.org](http://pablocenter.org)

## ROSE DOLAN-NEILL, CURATOR

**Visual & Literary Arts Manager**  
**Pablo Center at the Confluence**

Eric Lee's artwork is physically and conceptually challenging. It is of labor and industry. Details are painted on the canvas with the finest of brushes only to, in some cases, literally be set on fire. Brick by brick, brush stroke by brush stroke, small leaves on the bushes, boards on the boat; this work is intense when viewed up close. It tells the story of our past industry and where all things must go; back to the earth. So many of Eric's works seem to spring from the ground like mechanical plants and trees. There are no living humans to be seen, all is crumbling, and many times the work is quiet in its decay. There is violence too. An exploded bridge, ash and disheveled vegetation, words and phrases imprinted that are barely legible on the canvas, nods to possible human interactions; after all, someone has built all of this.

Some works transcend the earth and reach to the sky as can be seen in Eric Lee's newer work, *Her Veil*. In this work, a temple tower meets what seems to be the remains of a charred boat made bower.

The white space in many of Eric's work give the viewer focus and pause. One is drawn to the immediate subject matter of the canvas and is able to connect directly to the object that has been given significance. Some subjects seem to be adrift in a cloud of smoke, some subjects are seemingly connected by the thinnest field of weeds and bramble. One is drawn into the fine detail work and might be filled with awe at the of deftly captured miniature world.

There is a series of black and white works on display. These untitled works bring to mind the fluidity of paint, a scraping of materials, an exploration of ink and paper. Freedom and investigation.

We are proud to offer you a glimpse into the Laurie Bieze Art Collection. Contributions to the Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection enrich the art experience for anyone who walks through the doors of Pablo Center.

<https://www.pablocenter.org/support/donate/>

# ARTIST STATEMENTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Statements and biographies are written by the individual artists and are published with their permission. The views expressed are their own. Thank you.

## Eric Lee

*Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

*Website* - <http://eric-j-lee.org>

*Instagram* - [https://instagram.com/ericlee\\_art/](https://instagram.com/ericlee_art/)

Eric Lee works primarily in oil in conjunction with a number of process-driven techniques involving flammables, water, ashes, concrete, aluminum, wood, and others. Subject matter is derived primarily from the post-industrial cities of the great lakes basin, which serve as models for the life cycle of eras, and speak to the nature of separation, violence, anxiety, and loss. His work is shown regularly throughout the midwest and nyc, and is in a number of private collections. Eric lee lives in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Eric Lee is a strong supporter of [Family Promise of Chippewa Valley-Beacon House](#), an organization that advocates and supports families who are homeless by providing temporary housing and support services. Their vision is to find a day when every child has a home and a bright future. Please join Eric in support of this worthy organization.

Several of Eric Lee's works include videos documenting process used to ignite and create his works.

You can find these and all Eric Lee's videos on his [YouTube Channel](#).

***22 A-Million, 2015***

2 panels, oil, ignited gunpowder, ash, embedded match heads on paper, 71" x 60"

Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection

Donated by Justin Vernon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufWP5SEa9n4>

***Allouez***

6 panels, oil, ignited gunpowder, ash, papers, 109" x 36"

Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection

Donated by Justin Vernon

This was an exciting time for me. This was my first attempt at explosions and burning technique.

***Belknap Street Yards, 2013***

Gas fire and oil on hardboard, 42x22

Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection

Purchased by Pablo Center at the Confluence with proceeds benefiting Family Promise of Chippewa Valley Beacon House

***Building and Unbuilding the Globe, 2009***

9 canvases, oil and papers, 48x240

On Loan from Brian Joseph

***Her Veil***

Oil and mixed media on panel, 24x24

Not for sale

### ***Howard's Bay, 2013***

Embedded match heads, wood, papers and oil on hardboard, 25x36.5

Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection

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### ***Lucifer, 2013***

Oil, embedded match heads on paper, 24x27"

Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection

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This was my first time using 3D alongside 2D on the canvas. The match sticks symbolize pilings. This building really messed with me. I remember feeling concerned about the two chimneys, just worried about the feel of this building.

### ***Skein, 2010***

Intaglio, ink on paper, 18.5x15

On loan from the artist

### ***Springtime on Winter Street, 2013***

Embedded match heads, wood, papers and oil on hardboard, 24x37

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ60UtmzV6Y>

### ***The Coming Wound***

Oil and mixed media on canvas, 12x12 | \$2200

***Untitled, 1, 2016***

Ink on paper, 10x6.5

On loan from the artist

***Untitled, 2, 2016***

Ink on paper, 10x6.5

On loan from the artist

***Untitled No.1, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 12.5x9

On loan from the artist

***Untitled No.2, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 15x19

On loan from the artist

***Untitled No.3, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 15x19

On loan from the artist

***Untitled No.4, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 15x11

On loan from the artist

***Untitled No.5, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 17x15

On loan from the artist

***Untitled No.6, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 11x11

On loan from the artist

***Untitled, 2016***

Industrial paint, ink on paper, 6.5x10

On loan from the artist

***Verehrung, 2008***

Oil, ignited gunpowder, ash, paper on five hard-board panels, 48x22

Laurie Bieze Permanent Art Collection

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