Gagosian

Creative Mind: Rick Lowe

The Houston-based artist strives to directly address issues of equity and justice through his practice

Lucy Rees



Rick Lowe in front of Black Wall Street Journey #6 (2021).
PHOTO: BRENT REANEY, COURTESY OF RICK LOWE STUDIO AND GAGOSIAN



Rick Lowe.PHOTO: BRENT REANEY

Rick Lowe is a shining example of how creativity can empower people and communities to spark economic, social, and political change. Over the past few decades, the Alabama-born, Houston-based artist has worked both inside and outside art-world institutions, participating in exhibitions and developing award-winning social projects, including the famed *Project Row*

<u>Houses</u>. Whether it is paintings, drawings, or grassroots works made in collaboration with local neighborhoods, <u>Lowe</u> strives to directly address issues of equity and justice. "My journey has always been to figure out how to push art forward in a way that has the deepest impact on the community," he says.

Full Circle: In the past few years, Lowe has returned to painting with gusto. Finding freedom in abstraction, he makes large-scale canvases that are often based on the game of dominoes. "When I am doing these projects, it is all about trying to figure things out, to offer up answers to very difficult and challenging questions," he says. "But in the painting studio, I can go back to raising the questions without answering them. The work is allowed to be much more open-ended."



Black Wall Street Journey #5, 2021PHOTO: THOMAS DUBROCK, COURTESY OF GAGOSIAN

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RICK LOWE



Project Row Houses, Houston 1993–2018PHOTO: COURTESY OF RICK LOWE

What's Next: Recently signed with mega-gallery <u>Gagosian</u>, which will present his first-ever New York solo show in September, Lowe will participate in the Whitney Biennial in April.



Installation views of Rick Lowe paintings in Social Works, June 23–August 13, 2021.PHOTO: ROB MCKEEVER, COURTESY OF GAGOSIAN