

LUCIAN MORIYAMA



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Lucian Moriyama is an artist and writer. He studied at the Hudson Valley Community College, the University of Glasgow, and the Beaux-Arts de Marseille, where he received the Prix François Bret. He has presented his works at Manifesta 13, Jeune Création, and Brussels Gallery Weekend and has shared his work at conferences and workshops at Tramway, Mucem, and the Royal Academy of Fine Arts of Brussels. He has been a resident at the Villa Filanda Antonini, Villa Empain, and the Collection Lambert.

His ongoing still life series appropriates scagliola, a baroque plaster-based technique imitating marble. While this ornamental technique is often associated with Italian villas, baroque churches, and Grand Tour souvenirs, he learned this technique while researching its use at World's Fairs and colonial exhibitions – the transformation of an Italian artisanal tradition into an international style which, even today, backgrounds courtrooms across the US and the world.

By imitating and imagining geological formations, he creates unique object-archives which transform this decorative plaster technique into metaphysical tableaux situated between painting and sculpture. His work reconnects the classical tradition of trompe-l'œil to contemporary questions, poetically exploring the interplay between real and fiction, the ideal and its tragic double.