

16 Dec – 25 Apr

2017 – 2018

Len Lye:

Big Bang Theory



Room Brochure

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Len Lye's acclaimed kinetic sculpture and his stardom in the world of cinema are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the artist's practice. The definitive multimedia artist, Lye was a prolific painter throughout his career. *Big Bang Theory* unveils for the first time since 1980 Lye's large 'myth' paintings – one of his most personal projects and a fascinating insight into Lye's unique artistic vision.

Made during a burst of intense activity in his final years while living in New York and Puerto Rico, this suite of works captures Lye's pursuit of pre-conscious inspiration. Lye believed in a deep body of unconscious imagery and knowledge known as the 'Old Brain'. This could be accessible when we stop the modern 'New Brain pushing it around'.

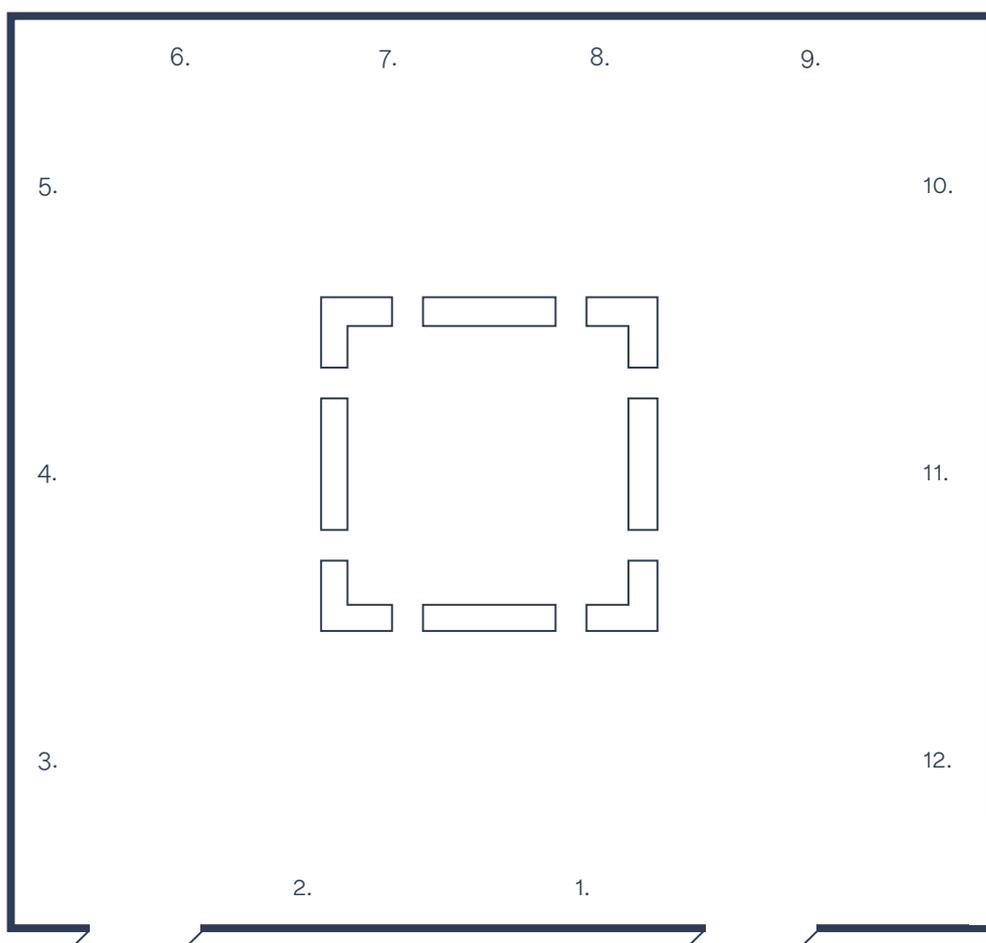
I've doodled to assuage my hunger for some hypnotic image
I've never seen before. Seems to be somehow mysteriously
magical, I don't know what the hell it is. And look at it and
wonder, did that fascinating-looking thing come out of ME?

– Len Lye

Like his films and sculpture, these paintings are reflections of a natural world 'divined' from the human body – knowledge and experience recorded in our DNA. With an artistic hand driven by the freedom of 'doodling', Lye explored a world beyond which we see with our modern minds, delving deeper in ancient mythology and human identity, searching our primordial DNA for the 'happiness acid'.

Paul Brobbel, Len Lye Curator

Sarah Wall, Assistant Len Lye Curator



1. *Polynesian Connection* 1979
acrylic on canvas
1849 x 2952 mm

2. *Land and Sea* 1977
oil on canvas
2743 x 1829 mm

3. *Flora before Fauna* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2160 x 2998 mm

4. *Fire Devil, Leaving* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2140 x 3110 mm

5. *Helium* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2185 x 3370 mm

6. *Rift Fish* 1978
acrylic on canvas
1858 x 2461 mm

7. *Witchetty Grub* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2160 x 2235 mm

8. *Crustacean* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2167 x 1982 mm

9. *Ancestor* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2844 x 2166 mm

10. *Family Conference* 1978
acrylic on canvas
2105 x 2890 mm

11. *God of Light (The Big Bang Man)* 1977
acrylic on canvas
2111 x 2193 mm

12. *Day and Night* 1978
acrylic on linen
2138 x 2419 mm

You get all your stimuli and stuff you've got stored away in your make-up, the organic stuff as well, your acquired stuff, your inherited stuff, you've got all this stuff, and you just shuffle it around like it was somebody prospecting for gold, you know. You shuffle it around and you sift away, and there they are, these little original things which are antagonistic of whatever forms of life and body that you are at the time going to express. You see, the whole truth of evolution is in our make-up.

– Len Lye

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