

[Tansey at Gagosian](#)

[Tansey at the Broad](#)

Read a series of quotes by Mark Tansey on [The Artchive](#) about everything from realism and representation to crossroads, illustration, and riff and resonance.

Read reviews of Tansey’s 1997 solo exhibition at Curt Marcus Gallery in New York, including one in the [New York Times](#) by Roberta Smith and another in [Artforum](#) by David Frankel.

[Mark Tansey](#) was installed at Gagosian Gallery in 2004, his first major exhibition in New York since 1997. This exhibition was the first where the artist exhibited work painted in “ultramarine blue.” Read a [review](#) in ARTnews by Daniel Grant, “The Art of Mark Tansey is Slow to Make, Quick to Sell.”

In 2005, *Mark Tansey* was the artist’s first solo exhibition in Germany, held at the [Museum Kurhaus Kleve](#). The exhibition then traveled to [Württembergischer Kunstverein](#) in Stuttgart.



Tansey, unknown date
Photograph: DPA Picture Alliance Archive

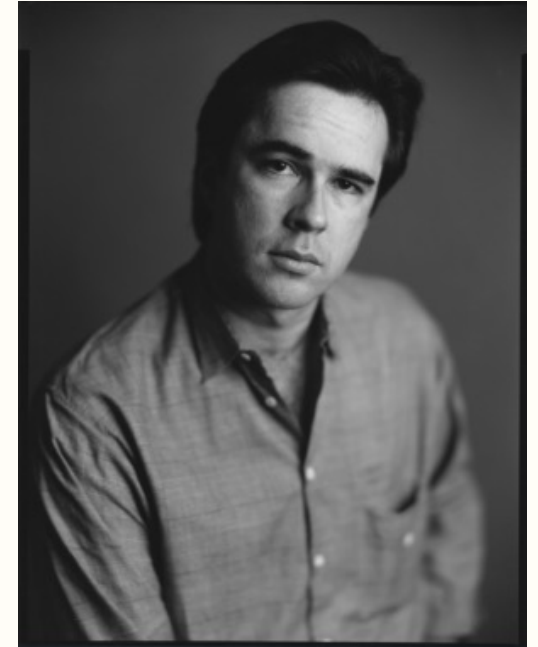
The 2009-2010 exhibition *Mark Tansey* at [Gagosian Gallery London](#) was Tansey’s first solo exhibition in London.

[Mark Tansey](#) was installed at Gagosian Beverly Hills in 2011. For this exhibition of recent paintings, the artist utilized “ultramarine blue” to evoke architectural blueprints.

In 1994, Tansey organized an exhibition by young Chinese painters who had recently arrived in New York, which was followed by a co-curated exhibition with Peter Drake twenty years later. The second installation of the exhibition featured five of the original Chinese artists joined by five Russian artists creating “unofficial” and subversive work. [Read a conversation](#) between Tansey, Drake, and other members of the 2014 exhibition in Gagosian Quarterly.

[Mark Tansey: Reverb](#) was on display at Gagosian Gallery in New York in 2017. Read an article in [Gagosian Quarterly](#) by Alexander Wolf that served as a guide through the complex layers of the exhibition.

The 2021 exhibition [Mark Tansey: Recent Paintings and Graphite Drawings](#) at Gagosian Gallery New York covered six years of the artist’s recent works.



Tansey, unknown date
Photograph: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders



Mark Tansey (American, b. 1949)

Study on "Installing the Lens", 2000

Mixed media on canvas

Private Collection; L2022:44.1

Raised in San Jose, California, by a father who was an art historian and a mother who was an art slide librarian, Mark Tansey developed a deep-seated interest in literature, philosophy, mathematics, and the history of visual culture. Tansey's carefully planned compositions are often inspired by photographs and magazine clippings and executed in meticulous detail. The artist works in monochromatic pigments with a subtractive painting process; he carefully covers the composition in color before removing layers of paint to reveal the image. **Study on "Installing the Lens"** depicts a long, cavernous tunnel with obscured figures working to install a lens device. Like other works in Tansey's oeuvre, the painting is rich with symbolic meaning and visual puns, reflecting on both the nature of perception and the familiar adage that there is "light at the end of the tunnel."

On view August 31 – December 4, 2022