

James Barron Art



Photo © Frances F. Denny for *The New Yorker*, 2019

Peter Sacks

b. 1950, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Peter Sacks was born in 1950 in South Africa and lived there for the first 20 years of his life, followed by studies abroad, which led him to the United States. His paintings explore the colliding recalcitrant energies of collage — what he has called “putting the traction back in abstraction” — and its many layers work to awaken our “optical unconscious.”

Sacks’ work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Bonavero Institute for Human Rights at Oxford, and the collection of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, among others.



Kent, CT, 2020



Kent, CT, 2020

PETER SACKS

Tipping Point I, 2020
mixed media on canvas
36 x 36 inches (91.4 x 91.4 cm)



PETER SACKS

Tipping Point 3, 2020
mixed media on canvas
36 x 36 inches (91.4 x 91.4 cm)





“What’s visible is always in tension with what is being obscured, what is below, what is beneath.”

Peter Sacks

PETER SACKS

Tipping Point 5, 2020
mixed media on canvas
36 x 36 inches (91.4 x 91.4 cm)



PETER SACKS

Township #17, 2020
mixed media on canvas
72 x 72 inches (91.4 x 91.4 cm)





“As Sacks adds each new layer, he feels the presence of the materials he has buried, as though history itself is pressing upward.”

Joshua Rothman, *The New Yorker*