

DOUG STAPLETON

Statement

In my collages, I re-configure found images into ambiguous narratives that often refer to the source, but mess around with the original message. Visually I respond to the operatic sparkle and complexity—the grandly narrated spectacle—that is the history of western art. I want to continue that high key drama in my work.

My background in anthropology and art history informs how I construct these collages. I'm tethered to the possible of the story within the fragment. I play loosely with symbols and metaphors from art history, language, and religion to create new images that are strongly representational, with an attention to precise cutting and visual consistency, and a nod toward absurd, implied narrative.

Bio

Doug Stapleton is an artist, curator and educator. He is Curator of Art with the Illinois State Museum and a former adjunct faculty in the Interdisciplinary Arts graduate program at Columbia College Chicago. Stapleton's work has been the subject of two solo exhibitions at the Chicago Cultural Center and Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago in 2012. A former Artistic Associate with the Chicago based contemporary dance company The Seldoms, he had worked on eleven evening length dance performances in the capacity of dramaturg and as a performer. Prior to his work with the Seldoms, he has performed in over forty solo and collaborative performances since 1989. He received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1989, and a BA in Anthropology from University of Delaware with a minor concentration in Art History and Ceramics.

EXHIBITIONS

2023

Birds In Art, Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, WI. Juried group exhibition.

Chimera: Art About Hybrid, Manifest Creative Research Gallery, Cincinnati, OH, April 2022. Juried group exhibition

Tarot, Memento Mori Gallery, Denver CO, March 2022. Group exhibition

Spiritual Visions, Fontbonne University Art Gallery, St. Louis, MO, January 2022. Juried group exhibition

2022

inQuery: 4 ALT/REALITIES. Frank Connet, Gene Skala, Kent Smith, Doug Stapleton. Center on Halsted, Chicago, IL. October 2022. Group exhibition

REMIX, Aurora Public Art Gallery, Aurora, IL, June 2022. Group invitational exhibition

2021

Unseen: Collages, Paintings, Works on Paper, and Sculpture. Frank Connet, Gene Skala, Doug Stapleton, Michelle Stone, Rebecca Wolfram, 3D4D Gallery, Chicago, IL. February 2021

Charismatic Fauna, University of Illinois Springfield Art Gallery, Springfield, IL, January 2021. Solo exhibition

2020

Dropped from the Clouds, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL, November 2020. Solo exhibition

2019

Misha Goro & Doug Stapleton. Chris Boicos Fine Arts at Salon Zürcher, Zürcher Gallery, New York, NY, March 2019.

Collage Exhibition. Teresa Hofheimer Gallery, Chicago, IL, February 2019, Group exhibition

Curators Create 2nd Biennial Exhibition. Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL, January 2019, Group exhibition.

2018

Atlas of the Heavens, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL, March 2018, Solo exhibition 2017

Beyond the Edge, Mary Rezny Studio/Gallery, Lexington KY. September 2017. Group exhibition

Moving Point, Sidewinder Gallery, Chicago IL. August 2017. Group exhibition 2016

Signature of All Things. Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City IN. April – June 2016. Solo exhibition.

Materiality and the Layered (Eye). Evanston Art Center, Evanston IL. April – June 2016. Group exhibition organized by Marilyn Propp

Collage Exhibition. Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL. January 2016. Group exhibition 2015

Return of the Exquisite Corpse, Printworks Gallery, Chicago IL, December 2015. Invitational group exhibition.

Vadim Gushchin, Douglas Stapleton, William Utermohlen. Jennifer Norback Fine Art, Chicago IL. September 2015.

Folktales & Legends. John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI, April – July 2015. Juried exhibition.

Brink. Matthew Rachman Gallery, Chicago IL. April 2015. Three-person exhibition with Frank Connet & Ted Stanuga.

2014

Like This. Jennifer Norback Fine Art, Chicago IL. December 2014. two-person exhibition with Cindy Bernhard.

Collage. Fotofever, Boicos Fine Art, Paris. November 2014.

Poseidon. Chris Boicos Fine Art, Paxos, Greece. July 2014. Group Exhibition.

21st Salon du Collage Contemporain. Les Hauts de Belleville, Paris France. March/April 2014. Group exhibition.

A Passing Fancy. Center on Halsted Gallery, Chicago IL. March 2014. Solo exhibition

Tales Tolds. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati OH. March 2014. juried exhibition.

Bodies. North Seattle Community College Art Gallery, Seattle Washington. February 2014. Juried group exhibition

2013

33 x 3. MS Rezny Gallery, Lexington KY. September 2013. Group exhibition.

Love. Merit School of Music, Chicago IL. September 2013. Group exhibition in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Beethoven Music Festival.

Paris in Chicago, Beckel Odille Boïcos Gallery, Paris, France. June 2013. Group exhibition.

In Metamorphosis. Jennifer Norback Gallery, Chicago, IL. May 2013. Two-person exhibition with Vivian Van Blerk.

The Paper Show. Las Manos Gallery, Chicago, IL. April 2013. Group exhibition.

Galex 47. Galesburg Civic Art Center, Galesburg IL, March 2013. Juried exhibition.

2012

It's Time to Look Forward. Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL. November – December 2012. Group exhibition.

Optimistic Reconstructions. Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago IL. October - December 2012. Solo exhibition.

The Grand Spectacle: Recent Collages. Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago IL. February – April 2012. Solo exhibition.

Limits of Photography. Museum of Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago IL. January - March 2012. Group exhibition, Rod Slemmons, Curator.

2011

Surface Tension: A Group Collage Exhibition. Robert T. Wright Gallery, College of Lake County, Grayslake IL. November 2011.

Sustainable Books and Paper Art. Brushwood, Ryerson Woods, Deerfield IL. November 2011. Group exhibition.

Cut. Evanston Arts Center, Evanston IL, June 2011. Group exhibition.

Juxtaposed in its Essence. Elgin Community College Safety-Kleen Gallery, Elgin IL, February 2011. Two-person exhibition. (catalog)

2010

Group Exhibitions. Las Manos Gallery and Eyeporium Gallery, December 2010.

Three Figurative Artist. Burlington Art Guild, Burlington IA, October 2010. Group exhibition.

Piece Work. Ann Lloyd Gallery, Decatur Area Arts Council, Decatur IL. November 2010. Group exhibition.

Michael and Angelo. Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL, August 2010. Solo exhibition.

Romp. The Depot Gallery, Beverly Shores IN, June 2010. Solo exhibition.

Made in Illinois. Robert Morris Gallery, Robert Morris University. Springfield IL. February 2010. Group juried exhibition for the Illinois Artisan Program.

RE:(rebound, recycled, repurposed, reused). Abecedarian Gallery, Denver CO. February 2010. Group exhibition.

2009

New Collages, Las Manos Gallery, Chicago, IL. December 2009.

Navigation Imagination, Abecedarian Gallery, Denver CO. November 2009. Juried exhibition.

Small Work, Big Ideas. Morpho Gallery, Chicago IL. May 2005. Group exhibition.

From What Are Dreams. Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL. April 2009. Two person exhibition with Karena Karras.

3x3 Exhibition. Dance Center of Columbia College, Chicago IL, February 2009. Exhibition in conjunction with The Seldoms Spring Concert.

2008

Sideshow. Las Manos Gallery, Chicago IL, November, 2008, solo exhibition.

Bookish. Project Artaud Theater Gallery, San Francisco, CA, October 2008, invitational exhibition.

2006

12x12. Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery, Skokie IL, September of 2006, 2007, 2008.

PERFORMANCES

2001-2010 Eleven evening length concerts. Collaborative work as artist association with The Seldoms, a Chicago based contemporary dance company. 1989-2008 Forty-two solo and collaborative performances in Chicago, New York, Minneapolis, Portland and Cleveland.

RESIDENCIES

2017, Residency with The Seldoms, Tramway & House for an Art Lover, Glasgow Scotland.

2005, 2009, 2011, 2013 Studio Residency, Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest IL.

PUBLICATIONS & REVIEWS

“CPC’s global gathering of print media: Artists in their element”, KT Hawbaker, Chicago Tribune, August 24, 2017. (Review of Moving Point exhibition at Sidewinder Gallery)

Exhibition in Print: The Face in Collage. Kolaj Magazine, Issue #10, October 2014.

Doug Stapleton. Interview by Kieran Donnan. 22 Magazine, Volume 4, Collage, Fall-Winter 2013.

12 Days. Day 1. Collage. Doug Stapleton. Fat Boy Review (online journal), Richard House, Editor. December 2013.

Admiration. (image) published in the South Loop Review. Vol 15. 2013. Columbia College Chicago.

“In Metamorphosis and outside time: In works by Vivian van Blerk and Doug Stapleton at Jennifer Norback Fine Arts, archetypes reoccur and time is rearranged”, Sarah Nardi, Chicago Reader, May, 2013.

“Art Review: Doug Stapleton, Optimistic Reconstructions”, Diane Thodos, NeotericART: An Online Art Magazine, December 16, 2012.

Juxtaposed in Its Essence, catalog, Ed Krantz, curator. Elgin Community College, Elgin IL. 2011.
“Critics Pick: Paul Clark and Doug Stapleton,” Las Manos Gallery. NewCity. December 31, 2009.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago IL

Lake County Community College, Grayslake, IL