

Artist statement:

Queer culture, and visibility are more important than ever in a moment where queer identity and queer bodies are under attack. Painting has a responsibility to its own history, but functions powerfully as a tool to combat the dangers that queerness is facing. My work is fiction that attempts to elevate queer realities to the level of mythological canon. Queer culture mythologizes sex and sexuality as equal parts abject and the ultimate out of reach experience, its normalized, demonized and sometimes beyond reach; in my paintings queer identity is coded to exist hidden in plain sight, coexisting between oppression and desire, a chimeric blending of coexistent realities. By mixing objects, gestures, and positioning, my painting language takes on a symbolic double-speak; the banality of a blade of grass is suddenly a phallus with the correct placement. Queerness has always been mediated through double-entendre, and despite advancements in openness and representation; there is still a power in language that can easily dissolve as soon as it comes into being. This representation relies strongly on uses of intense colors, a symbol of pride for the queer community, and a status symbol amongst abstractions elite, a play at concealing through color and revealing through images to seduce the viewer and repulse them. Patterning and animal imagery construct the figures, establishing a base in mythological motif but referencing queer cultures draw to colorful expression. In the natural world bright colors and intricate patterns in animals act as a warning, by decorating the figures the same way I try to seduce while maintaining the same level of danger. I am drawn to monsters, half man half beasts in particular, which always functioned as the symbolic interruption of heteronormative coupling in mythology, in the worlds I create, these figure are both normal and desirable. I structure the imagery like a play or picture-book, and allow the work to hover between a space defined by the boundaries of sexuality, violence, and playfulness; with shapes and drop shadows attempting to create spaces that reference painting history and figures who's narrative importance flips the script and seduces with their threat to normalcy.

Bio:

Daniel Morowitz (b. 1989) is a painter based in Jersey City, NJ with a Bachelor's Degree from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University and a Masters Degree from Montclair State University; Exhibitions' include shows in Brooklyn, NY at the Buggy Factory, Trestle Gallery, La Bodega Gallery, Established Gallery. Jersey City, NJ at Curious Matter, Arthouse Productions, Novado Gallery. Hoboken, NJ at Proto Gallery, Manhattan, NYC at Field Projects Gallery, Here Arts Center, Proto Gomez Gallery, and co-curated "Line and Language" at the Watchung Arts Center and "Unnatural Intimacy" at SPRING/BREAK NYC 2020.

C.V.

Education

2015 MFA, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ Visual Art
2011 BFA, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ,
Painting

Solo Exhibitions

2017, Young and Hung, BAU Gallery, Beacon, NY

2 Person Exhibitions

2021, CANON, Proto Gomez Gallery, Manhattan, NY

Group Exhibitions

2021, The Privilege of Getting Together, Anna Zorina Gallery, Manhattan, NY

2021, Cave Canem, Eve Leibe Gallery, London, UK (Online)

2021, "2021", Flatfile Gallery, Manhattan, NY (Online)

2020, Seasonal Repression, Field Projects, Manhattan, NY

2020, RECLAIMED, REIMAGINED, Field Projects, Manhattan, NY

2020, Unruly Hairs, Unruly Bodies, Curina, Manhattan, NY (Online)

2020, Art on the Wall, Flatfile Gallery, Manhattan, NY (Online)

2020, Suddenly Last Summer, Auxier Kline, (Online)

2020, 8x8, Flatfile Gallery, Manhattan, NY (Online)

2020, Unnatural Intimacy, Spring Break Art Fair, NY

2020, Leyline of Anticipation, Puppy American, Bronx, NY

2020, Postcards from the Edge, Bortolami Gallery, Manhattan, NY

2019, Figurative Dialect, Novado Gallery, Jersey City, NJ

2019, Rendering Likeness Volume 2, Established Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2019, Queer as I, Here Arts Center, Manhattan, NY

2019, While Supplies Last, Seattle, WA

2018, Hot Farce, Field Projects, Manhattan, NY

2018, Chromozones, Art House, Jersey City, NJ

2018, Behind the New Museum, 195 Chrystie st, Manhattan, NY

2018, RE:RE Patterns, La Bodega Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2018, Bathers and the Backroom, 411 Gallery, Provincetown, MA

2018, BARBERINI or Totes Masc for Samesies, Proto Gallery, Hoboken, NJ

2018, Introductions 2018, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2017, Hand/Made, La Bodega Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2017, Vitamin C, Abrons Art Center, Manhattan, NY

2017, 365 Art Gang Open Studios, East Orange, NJ

2017, Unreliable Narrator, Art House, Jersey City, NJ

2017, RE:Patterns, La Bodega Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2017, Soft Reboot, Proto Gallery, Hoboken, NJ
2017, A World Where We Belong, Hudson County Community College, Jersey City, NJ
2017, Postcards From The Edge, Metro Pictures, Manhattan, NY
2017, A Dark Wood, Noyes Museum of Art, Stockton University, NJ

2016, A Dark Wood, Curious Matter, Jersey City, NJ
2016, Far Away, So Close, Buggy Factory, Bushwick, NY
2016, Plus One, Neumann Leather Factory, Proto Gallery Annex, Hoboken, NJ

2015, Art In A Box, The Painting Center, Manhattan, NY
2015 DIRT-E, Central Booking, Manhattan, NY
2015 Corpus Vile, Brooklyn Fire Proof East, Brooklyn, NY

2014 Sliver, Index Gallery, Newark, NJ

2013, Sumei Benefit Silent Auction, Apt16 Artspace, Newark, NJ

Awards

2014-2015 Graduate Assistantship, Montclair State University
2013 Saul and Adelaide Goldfarb Scholarship

Presentations

2019, Artist Talk, Novado Gallery, Jersey City NJ

2015, Artist Talk, Montclair State University, Concept, Process, and Application
2015 Art Forum Montclair State University

Publications

2021. Friend of the Artist, Volume 13

2016, ArtFile Magazine, Impulse and Authenticity: Daniel Morowitz in conversation with ArtFile Magazine's AM DeBrincat

Curation

2020, Unnatural Intimacy, Spring Break Art Fair, NY

2018, Line and Language, Watchung Arts Center, Watchung, NJ