

Doug Stapleton

Statement

In my collages, I cut and re-configure found images to set up ambiguous narratives that often refer to the original source, but mess around with the message. Visually I respond to the operatic shimmer, 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 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 a visual and performance artists, curator and educator. He is an Assistant Curator of Art with the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery and a former Artistic Associate with the Chicago based contemporary dance company The Seldoms. From 2001 through 2010, he had worked with Artistic Director Carrie Hanson 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 is an adjunct faculty in the Interdisciplinary Arts graduate program at Columbia College Chicago.

EDUCATION

MFA The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 1989

BA University of Delaware, 1985

EXHIBITIONS

2012 *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 (with Alexis Mackenzie), Elgin Community College Safety-Kleen Gallery, Elgin IL, February 2011.

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.
- The Evidence Against Us*, Las Manos Gallery, Chicago IL, April 2010, Group exhibition.
- Made in Illinois*. Robert Morris Gallery, Robert Morris University. Springfield IL. February & April 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*, (with Karena Karras) Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL. April 2009.
- 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
- Blank Space Exhibition*, Northstar Health Clinic, Chicago IL. October 2008, invitational group exhibition, Refuge Center for Artist in Recovery
- Bookish*, Project Artaud Theater Gallery, San Francisco, CA, October 2008, invitational group exhibition, Julie Caffey, Curator
- 2006 *12x12*, Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery, Skokie IL, September of 2006, 2007, 2008.
- 2002 *1 + 1 = One: site specific installations*, Hook Pottery, LaPorte IN, July 2002. collaboration with Beth Tanner
- 2001 *Making Art Matter: Artists Transforming Society*, Commonwealth Gallery, Madison WI, October 2001.
- 1994 *Queer Spirit*, Jefferson County Art Center, Iowa City, IA, November, 1994
- 1992 *Like That, Like That There*, Installation group with Celia Rodriguez, Maxx Stevens & Fan Warren, C.A.G.E., Cincinnati OH. April, 1992.
- 1990 *Re-Collecting Memory*, Installation group with Celia Rodriguez & Maxx Stevens, Kalpulli Gallery, Chicago, IL. November, 1990.

Art Urgency, Artist Responses to AIDS, MoMing Dance & Arts Center, Chicago, IL.
September, 1990.

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.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2001-Present Assistant Curator of Art, Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery, Chicago IL.

2008-Present Adjunct Faculty, Interdisciplinary Arts Department, Columbia College Chicago.

2009-Present Member, Illinois Artisan Program.

2001-2010 Artistic Associate, The Seldoms, Chicago IL

2006-2009 Board Member, Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery, Skokie IL.

2005, 2009, 2011 Ragdale Residency, Lake Forest IL.

ESSAYS & REVIEWS

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