

Morgan Sims
Artist Statement
"Magnet Dust"

My current paintings explore shapes, textures, and colors inspired by rocks. I find it intriguing that rocks are created in geologic epochs, whereas my paintings (and other human endeavors) develop and change in relative lightning speed. With acrylic paint I create abstract surfaces built of loose marks and small gestures to build a sense of detail. I want these paintings to feel heavy, irregular, disorienting or grand, the same way I view and consider the earthy substance that composes the majority of our planet.

My neon work is freeform, bent glass in imperfect linear forms. Placing these shapes together creates engaging negative spaces while colors bleed and bounce from the walls and floor. Electrical currents react to gases and phosphor coatings within each tube, and I reflect again on our planet's raw materials.

I think of neon, as well as my paintings, as a human reaction or intervention with our planet. Rather than used for commercial means, however, they are fascinating when encountered ambiguously or without direct associations.

Morgan Sims

Resume

Education

Master of Fine Arts, 2010, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Master of Arts, 2009, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Bachelor of Fine Arts, 2004, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Solo Exhibitions

2017

Magnet Dust, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2016

Rainbo Club, Chicago, IL

2015

Metropolis, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2014

Clair E. Smith Gallery, Barrington High School, Barrington, IL

Intimation, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, Evanston, IL

Far-Out, Saki Records, Chicago, IL

2013

New Paintings and Neon, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago, IL

2010

The Closer You Get, MFA exhibition, UW Madison, Madison, WI

2009

Spectacular Spectacular, MA Exhibition, Madison, WI

2007

The Early Years, Joe Bar, Seattle, WA

2006

Print Zero Studios, Seattle, WA

Group Exhibitions

2017

Making Our Mark, Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, WA

Shapeshifters, Beatnik Studios, Sacramento, CA

Dreamland, The Empty Bottle, Chicago, IL

Multiple Visions II, Faculty Exhibition, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, IL

Lubinski Furniture, Chicago, IL

2016

Faculty Past and Present, UPS Kittredge Gallery, Tacoma, WA

Rise Over Run, Metropolitan Capital, Chicago, IL

Sightings, Pataphysical Society, Portland, OR

Paperish Mess, Chicago, IL

2015

Tip Your Delivery Boy, Saki Records, Chicago, IL

Keep Your Mind in Hell and Despair Not, Terraformer, Chicago, IL

2014

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival, Chicago, IL

Spotlight, Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL

2013

Cohesion, Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, IL

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival, Chicago, IL

Graveyard, Terraformer, Chicago, IL

Monuments and Ruins, Frogman Gallery, Chicago, IL

The Ice Box Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

Unconventional Narratives, The Art Museum, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY

Thinking of You, The Tight Ship Series at Octagon Gallery, Chicago, IL

2012

Meltdown, Octagon Gallery, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

Heaven Gallery, MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

Too Much is Never Enough, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Second Day Scenery, Azimuth Pop Up Gallery, Chicago, IL

12th Year Anniversary Show, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Space Vulture Worship Project, Happy Dog Gallery, Chicago, IL

Circa 1970, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL

Reality Slips, Robert Bills Contemporary, Chicago, IL

Drawn With a Knife, Morpho Gallery, Chicago, IL

Society of the Spectacular, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

2011

Camp, Octagon Gallery, Chicago, IL

Open Studio Extravaganza, Chicago, IL

Generous Beast, Forte Framing and Gallery, Chicago, IL

Double Trouble, Milk Factory Gallery, Chicago, IL

Pratt Gallery, Tashiro Kaplan Building, Seattle, WA

2010

Packer Schopf Gallery, Chicago, IL

Kick-off Exhibition, The Milk Factory, Chicago, IL

Put Away Your Childish Things, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI

Forward: UW Madison Graduate Exhibition, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

Home Sweet Home, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI

2009

Satisfaction Town, Southern Graphics Conference, Chicago, IL

2008

Fresh Hot Press, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI

2007

People + Place, Seattle Portable Works, Municipal Tower Gallery, Seattle, WA

Emerging Student Exhibition, D'Adomo/Woltz Gallery, Seattle, WA

Ink and Clay 33, Cal State Poly Technic University; Pomona, CA

2006

Forgotten Works Challenge, OK Hotel, Seattle, WA

Northwest Fine Arts Competition, Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, WA

Selected Public Collections

Neiman Marcus

BMO Harris

Seattle Portable Works

Bibliography

2017

Studio Visit Magazine, Volume 37

2016

Studio Visit Magazine, Volume 36

2013

Art Ltd. Magazine, Morgan Sims: Paintings and Neon at Bert Green Fine Art

New City Art Chicago, Portrait of the Artist: Morgan Sims

Monarch Daily, Abstractions with Light and Paint: An Interview with Morgan Sims

2010

50/50 Survey of Contemporary Printmaking, Print Zero Studios

Awards/Positions

2013

Panelist, Southern Graphics Conference, Milwaukee, WI

2009

Visiting Artist, Murray State University, Murray, KY

2007

Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, King County, Seattle, WA, Purchase Award