

Doug Stapleton

Atlas of the Heavens

However appealing we may find the dream of a knowable universe made of paper and a meaningful cosmos made of words, a library, even one colossal in its proportions or ambitious and infinite in its scope, can never offer us a "real" world, in the sense in which the daily world of suffering and happiness is real. It offers us instead a negotiable image of that real world which (in the words of the French critic Jean Roudaut) "kindly allows us to conceive it," as well as the possibility of experience, knowledge and memory of something intuited through a tale or guessed at through a poetic or philosophical reflection. —Alberto Manguel

The Library at Night

I found an atlas of the night's sky with stars, constellations and a blue toned Milky Way. The night sky, to me vast and unknowable, is reduced to cream-colored pages with lines and dots, each plate, or section of sky, gridded-out, fanning out from their poles as a net cast to snare comprehension. Each plate has a roman numeral, which makes me think of Tarot Cards-another system for grasping the incomprehensible. Atlas of the Heavens is my own divination, derived from a jumble of associations that navigates my own worries and love for a world out balance.

Artist's 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.

Biography

Doug Stapleton is an artist, curator and educator. He is an Associate Curator of Art with the Illinois State Museum Chicago Gallery and an 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.

Doug Stapleton

Resume

Exhibitions

2018

Atlas of the Heavens, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL

2017

Beyond the Edge, Mary Rezny Studio/Gallery, Lexington KY

Group exhibition Moving Point, Sidewinder Gallery, Chicago IL

2016

Collage Group Show, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL

Signature of All Things. Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City IN

Materiality and the Layered (Eye), Evanston Art Center, Evanston IL

2015

Return of the Exquisite Corpse, Printworks Gallery, Chicago IL

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

30 Years: Illinois Artisan Program Exhibition, William Morris University Gallery, Chicago IL

Folktales & Legends, John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI

Brink. Matthew Rachman Gallery, Chicago IL

2014

Like This. Jennifer Norback Fine Art, Chicago IL

Collage. Fotofever, Boicos Fine Art, Paris

Poseidon. Chris Boicos Fine Art, Paxos, Greece

21st Salon du Collage Contemporain. Les Hauts de Belleville, Paris France

A Passing Fancy, Center on Halsted Gallery, Chicago IL

Tales Tolds, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati OH

Bodies, North Seattle Community College Art Gallery, Seattle WA. Juror: Elizabeth A. Brown, Ph.D., art historian

2013

33 x 3, MS Rezny Gallery, Lexington KY

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

Paris in Chicago, Beckel Odille Boicos Gallery, Paris, France

In Metamorphosis, Jennifer Norback Gallery, Chicago, IL

The Paper Show, Las Manos Gallery, Chicago, IL

Group exhibition. Galex 47, Galesburg Civic Art Center, Galesburg IL

2012

It's Time to Look Forward, Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL

Optimistic Reconstructions. Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago IL

The Grand Spectacle: Recent Collages. Loyola University Museum of Art, Chicago IL

Contemporary Photography, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago IL, Rod Slemmons, Curator.

2011

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

Sustainable Books and Paper Art. Brushwood, Ryerson Woods, Deerfield IL

Cut, Evanston Arts Center, Evanston IL

Juxtaposed in its Essence, Elgin Community College Safety-Kleen Gallery, Elgin IL

2010

Group Exhibitions, Las Manos Gallery and Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL

Three Figurative Artists, Burlington Art Guild, Burlington IA

Piece Work, Ann Lloyd Gallery, Decatur Area Arts Council, Decatur IL

Michael and Angelo, Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL

Romp, The Depot Gallery, Beverly Shores IN
Made in Illinois. Robert Morris Gallery, Robert Morris University. Springfield IL
RE:(rebound, recycled, repurposed, reused), Abecedarian Gallery, Denver CO
2009

New Collages, Las Manos Gallery, Chicago IL
Navigation Imagination, Abecedarian Gallery, Denver CO
Small Work, Big Ideas, Morpho Gallery, Chicago IL
From What Are Dreams, Eyeporium Gallery, Chicago IL
3x3 Exhibition, Dance Center of Columbia College, Chicago IL
2008

Sideshow, Las Manos Gallery, Chicago IL.
Blank Space Exhibition, Northstar Health Clinic, Chicago IL
Bookish, Project Artaud Theater Gallery, San Francisco, CA
12x12, Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery, Skokie IL
2007

12x12, Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery, Skokie IL
2006

12x12, Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery, Skokie 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