

"New American Painting", NEW AMERICAN PAINTING #98, Open Studio Press: Boston, 2012.



New American Paintings was founded in 1993 as an experiment in art publishing. With over five thousand artists reviewed annually, it has become America's largest and most important series of artist competitions. Each competition is cataloged in a unique volume: Northeast, South, Midwest, West, Pacific Coast, and MFA Annual. Featured artists are selected on the basis of artistic merit and provided space for free.

Northeast

CT, DE, ME, MA, NH, NJ, PA, RI, VT, NY

MFA Annual

CURRENT MASTERS OF FINE ARTS CANDIDATES

South

AL, AR, DC, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV

Midwest

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI

West

AZ, CO, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OK, SD, TX, UT, WY

Pacific Coast

AK, CA, HI, OR, WA



Benjamin Degen

Editor's Pick p166

The frivolity of Benjamin Degen's work is not just visible in the representational narrative that plays out in his colorful scenes, but also in the playfulness with which he approaches formal issues, implied dimension and the resulting tension between pattern and abstraction. Faux bois bands of color are sewn back and forth across his compositions like stitches in a quilt, carrying with them a fresh aesthetic kinship with folk art. The formal inspection at play on the surface of these paintings is as much a character in Degen's images as the kittenish nude subjects that cavort throughout them.





Benjamin Degen

Actor | oil on linen over panel, 72 x 54 inches



Benjamin Degen

Diver | oil on linen over panel, 72 x 54 inches

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Benjamin Degen

Symposium | oil on canvas over panel, 72 x 108 inches

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Benjamin Degen

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b. 1976 Brooklyn, NY

Education

- 1998 BFA, The Cooper Union, New York, NY
- 1997 Norfolk Painting Fellowship, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Residencies

- 2007 *Me.di.um*, St. Barthelemy, French West Indies

Solo Exhibitions

- 2010 *Out of the Dark, Into the Air*, Museum 52 Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 *We can't stop living*, Guild and Greyskul, New York, NY
- 2007 *Brick Layer*, Mario Diacono, Boston, MA
- Me.di.um*, St. Barthelemy, French West Indies
- 2006 *A Tree is Falling*, Kantor/Feuer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 *Land Lives and Still Scapes*, Guild and Greyskul, New York, NY

Group Exhibitions

- 2011 *LANY*, Peter Blum Gallery, New York, NY
- 2010 *Reclining Nudes*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA
- 2009 *Cave Painting*, Gresham's Ghost Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 *Recent Acquisitions, Gifts, Works from Various Exhibitions*, White Column, New York, NY
- 2005 *Greater New York*, PS1 MOMA, Long Island City, NY

Publications

- 2011 *Vitamin P2*
- 2009 *The Judith Rothschild Contemporary Drawing Collection*, *Catalog Raisonne*

Collections

- Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia
- The Judith Rothschild Foundation, Museum of Modern Art
- The Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art

Represented by

- American Contemporary, New York, NY

Image functions as a space where the physical and the meta-physical planes of our existence intersect. Drawing, painting, and sculpture are the tools I use to access this image space. My pieces are constructions, utilizing individual elements and compositional conventions of Western and Eastern classical aesthetic traditions, American folk art, representational painting, abstract painting, video games, and typography as building materials. The compositions exist in an image space that floats between abstraction, pattern, and representation. This free-floating space is my Hephaestean forge where I attempt to smash together, interweave, and melt these elements into a new object.

Degen



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