

## Doug Stapleton 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.

### Dropped from the Clouds

There's a song, *Birds*, by Frida Hyvönen that is the soundtrack to this work

*You count on the birds.*

*You count on them to represent your longing.*

Birds are stand-ins. They are sacred, territorial, thieving and unbridled.

I found a facsimile of a Tiepolo sketchbook and fell in love with the soft ruddy curves of the figures. The drawings, smudged and smoky, are whispers compared to the confections of Tiepolo finished works. I have been looking at Piero Della Francesca as well. Sad and saintly figures in fantastic built environments. Finally, I bought an antique wooden floor grate caked with years of white paint. It is a building in my mind—a cote or shelter—for sheltering longing.

*Been hiding lately. Been out of function.*

*Been hibernating. Been looking at birds.*

*Burdened by something I have to get rid of.*

*Been making myself a better world.*

All these parts add up to nothing specific. Mostly I struggled to make these wispy drawings and ideas of shelter and longing work together. By fits and starts.

Underneath something else seethed and shifted. The monstrous — that is the unbridled part — equal parts fear, exasperation and longing to become something else. A change into something grotesque is welcome. Celebrated really.

*Now please call the boys, please call the boys.*

*Tell them to put on their dancing shoes now.*

## **Doug Stapleton 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

2020  
Dropped from the Clouds, Bert Green Fine Art, Chicago IL

2019  
Misha Goro & Doug Stapleton. Chris Boicos Fine Arts at Salon Zürcher, Zürcher Gallery, New York, NY, March 2019.  
Collage Exhibition. Teresa Hoffheimer Gallery, Chicago, IL, February 2019, Group exhibition  
Curators Create 2nd Biennial Exhibition. Bridgeport Art Center, Chicago, IL, January 2019, Group exhibition.

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