

the FIREPLACE project

DUSTIN YELLIN

Born 1975, California

Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

Dustin Yellin is an artist and founder of Pioneer Works, Center for Art + Innovation in Brooklyn, NY. His output includes paintings, drawings, installation, performance, and sculpture, comprised of clippings from magazines and books, paint and paper. Taken together, his work forms an archive of both gestures and images completely accumulative, yet never totalizing. Yellin archives material/images/gestures by including them in his malleable, shifting subjects, redefining what is "important" (what is thought to somehow define the subject) by including images of all kinds: sports stars, works of art, domestic objects, plants, animals. There is no privilege conferred on one image over another. Rather, they are set into place by an internal logic to each piece that dictates that all images are somehow related within his fragmentary, distended figures.

His large glass blocks recall, in their extreme hermeneutical diversity (forms within forms within forms, images within images within images) both a past in which the representation of the human form was art's most recognizable enterprise and a future in which that enterprise is deeply complicated by the fact that the human form has been shredded, reformatted, revised, redesigned, and made precarious and permeable by technological and ecological shifts. Yellin's work refers to particular art historical periods, Modernist collage and the redefinition of spatial relations via Cubism. They also evoke science fictional futures in which we cryogenically freeze ourselves to be shipped to some other, lush world.

But Yellin is not a geographer of that world—or any particular world. Instead, his work abandons geography, history, place, and events altogether. His figures inhabit the psychotopos of the geographers themselves, those denizens of a world both immediately familiar and unfamiliar, figures whose existence points only toward the process by which they came to be. There is no rationale or logic to their seemingly sudden materialization in glass, except for the paradoxical visualization of logic and rationale's twinned absence. Speechless, their silence seems ludic or drunken. And yet their silence fills the frenetic, high-definition space between chaos and organization in which we define our bodies and their social lives by their relation to their presence on networks online. Broken up, collaged: in their networked forms, they are a seemingly infinite series of linkages, more like micro-internets than human beings, getting to a now of total sprawl. In this sense, Yellin visualizes the intervening visual economies that embed other, larger systems within us in order to underscore our permeability (despite the work's thick glass): one body, in the contents of its images, might suggest an ecology (our most vexed field of inquiry) as diverse as a subtropical forest, another might organize around and into an imaginary landscape. Another might suggest a city. Another might suggest nothing at all, only strokes of paint.

Born in California in 1975 and raised in Colorado, Dustin Yellin now lives in Brooklyn, New York. In 2012, Yellin founded Pioneer Works, a social sculpture and non-profit institute for art and innovation in Red Hook. The capacious site is a venue for conceptual and creative cross-pollination, a quarter where resident artists and thinkers from diverse disciplines can interact without normative restrictions, ideally producing social change through innovative work.

-Andrew Durbin

the FIREPLACE project

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 selv ab twact hums, The Fireplace Project, East Hampton NY
Psychogeographies (permanent public art commission) Los Angeles
New York City Ballet Art Series, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, DC.
New York City Ballet Art Series, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York
- 2014 \$50,000, Two Parachutes, and A Crab's Suit, Richard Heller Gallery, California
The Triptych, Savannah College of Art and Design Museum, Georgia
- 2013 Investigations of a Dog, Half Gallery, New York
- 2011 Osiris on the Table, 20 Hoxton Square, London
- 2010 Night Shades, Vito Schnabel, Milan Eden Disorder, Samuel Freeman Gallery, California
- 2009 Dust in the Brain Attic, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 2008 Unnatural Selections, Patricia Faure Gallery, California
Permutations, Haines Gallery, California
- 2007 Suspended Animations, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 2005 Dustin Yellin, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 2002 Previous Works, James Fuentes Project Space, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Beware! The Blob, Richard Heller Gallery, California
Diverse Works: Director's Choice, 1997–2015, Brooklyn Museum, New York
- 2014 Hot Chicks, The Hole, New York
Environmental Impact, Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, California
- 2013 Come Together: Surviving Sandy, New York
Jew York, Zach Feuer Gallery, New York
- 2012 Brucennial 2012 "Harderer. Betterer. Fasterer. Strongerer.", Bruce High Quality Foundation, New York
- 2010 Conversations II, Travesía Cuatro Gallery, Madrid
- 2009 One From Here, Guild & Greyshkul, New York
Without Walls, Museum 52, New York
Among the Trees, New Jersey Center of Visual Arts, New Jersey
- 2008 Geometry As Image, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 2007 Conversations I, Travesía Cuatro, Madrid
- 2006 Earth and Other Things: Dustin Yellin and Johanna St. Clair, Lincart, California
Black and Blue, Robert Miller Gallery, New York
- 2005 Landings, Susan Inglett Gallery, New York
Ten Times the Space Between Night and Day, Guild & Greyshkul Gallery, New York
Nostalgia, Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, New York