

Studio visit

Flash Art

STUDIO VISIT

Halsey Rodman

Studio Visit: Halsey Rodman - brooklyn, november 11th

Andrea Bellini

Andrea Bellini: *Where are you from?*

Halsey Rodman: Davis, California –a college town in the middle of the Sacramento Valley in northern California.

A.B: *Do you spend a lot of time in the studio?*

H.A: Yes, as much as possible – though there are periods of intensity and distance.

A.B: *You share the studio with Ohad Meromi. How is it?*

H.A: Fantastic! We organized the studio in such a way as to have smaller private spaces and a larger shared space to accommodate both of our sometimes messy, sometimes sprawling, sometimes social projects.

A.B: *With Meromi you are working on a "Sculpture project". Can you tell me something about it?*

H.A: Ohad and I are working on a couple of projects. The first is a multi-venue show for next summer that Ohad, Jacob Dyrenforth, and I are organizing. The loose subject for the series of shows is the relation between fiction and sculpture – though we hope to interpret this theme broadly.

The other project grows out of our shared interest in work that is produced in a social space.

The idea for this piece is to organize a large group of people to produce a film of a cloud of smoke using point and shoot digital cameras – but rather than capturing the cloud of smoke as it changes in time, the film will attempt to capture the cloud of smoke from many viewpoints at single moment.

A.B: *Where did you study art?*

H.A: I went to undergraduate at the College of Creative Studies, a small program that is part of U.C. Santa Barbara. After graduating in 1995 I moved to Los Angeles and then in 2001 I moved to New York to attend graduate school at Columbia.

A.B: *How you would describe your work?*

H.A: My work is composed of forms including painted and sculpted matrixes of hexagons, clouds of vapor or smoke made from aluminum foil, clay pickles, geometric forms covered in sequential action painting, and event-based figurative sculpture. My recent work fuses the concrete experiences of the body with formal abstraction to reflect on transformation of the self and objects.

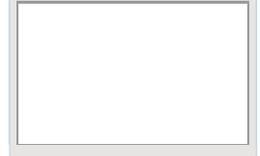
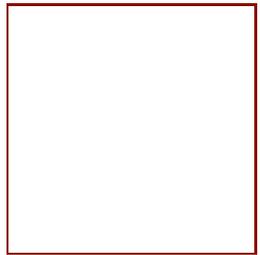
I want to use the inert, dumb mass of objects to explore subjects such as the passage of time, metaphysical state-change, the ongoing construction of the self, the sublime void, and phenomenological experience.



A.B: *What do you paint?*

H.A: The most recent paintings I've made are of an optically oscillating field of multi-colored hexagons – I think of these as being like a swirling cloud of mist, a veil separating the beholder from something lying beyond, a formless undulating void. Also, I often paint the surfaces of my sculptures as way to sort of highlight or dramatize one's spatial relationship with them – so the sculpture changes colors as you circle it, for example.

A.B: *Do you ever get bored by painting?*



H.A: it is a difficult question because the hexagon field paintings are very repetitive – when I am making these paintings the experience of the colors becomes primary. There is something therapeutic and mesmerizing about going into the world of color, of intense color. So the experience itself is not boring – but I do find that I cannot focus on the paintings all the time.

A.B: *What do you look for in a sculpture?*

H.A: A sense of adventure! The thing about sculpture is that it is by and large inert – defiant against time and moving very little if at all. And it occurs in the space of your body rather than in a window.

Given this, I am most interested in sculptures that gesture beyond these constraints; they acknowledge them but try to move beyond. It seems like a good analog for our own condition. Another quality I look for is difficulty or complication, a feeling that there is somewhere to go past seeing the thing, so that the experience of the work is a porthole into another way of thinking. And I want my encounter with a sculpture to be consensual.



A.B: *Do you have a gallery in New York?*

H.A: Yes, Guild and Greyskul in Soho.

A.B: *What is your favourite art work?*

H.A: "Wanderer Above the Sea of Fog" by Casper David Friedrich.

A.B: *Who are your favorites young artists in New York?*

H.A: Pam Lins, Lisi Raskin, Ohad Meromi, Cynthia Chan, Marc Handelman, Mike Smith, Jessica Dickinson, Hilary Harnischfeger, Jeanne Silverthorne, Tommy White, Amy Sillman, Fabienne Lasserre, Lucky DeBellevue, Jacob Dyrenforth, Matt Keegan, George Raggett, Rachel Harrison, Jon Kessler, Pilar Conde, Michael Mahalchick, Ricci Albenda...



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