

ARTE FUSE

Interview with Artist Samuel Jablon

by LAURA MYLOTT MANNING



“Over Heard”, Sam Jablon, installation view at Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Los Angeles, 2016.

Samuel Jablon is a Brooklyn-based artist. He has a solo show at the **Diane Rosenstein gallery** in L.A. Sept 10 – Oct 15, 2016. Read more to learn about his artworks included in the exhibition and his creative process!

Laura Mylott Manning: Thank you for talking with me today. Tell us about your path; where are you originally from and how did you come to live in New York City?

Samuel Jablon: I am originally from Binghamton, NY. I ended up going to Naropa University in Boulder, CO and after I graduated Bob Holman convinced me to move to NYC. After being here for a few years I went to Brooklyn College for an MFA in painting, and have been here since.



“Over Heard”, Sam Jablon, installation view at Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Los Angeles, 2016.

LMM: Your background in literature is certainly an influence on your text paintings. Please discuss the process of merging your art with writing.

SJ: I was writing a lot of poetry and I was painting a lot. I always felt both were missing something... so I combined them. The combination of the two practices has opened up a lot of creative avenues for the work.

LMM: Previously, you mentioned the artwork you are making now started to develop while you were an artist-in-residence at The Banff Centre. Can you talk about your time there?

SJ: I was doing a residency / workshop on poetry as a new / digital medium while at the Banff Centre. The work I was doing there relates closely to a recent performance I conceived of for Storefront for Art and Architecture’s TV program called Storefront TV. I was asked to create poetry as architecture, so I invited poets and artists to collaborate on a one-hour performance. I asked poets to create poetry from advertisements they saw around the city, a video artist made a video of found clips of NYC and a sound artist recorded Times Square. The video was screened on a green screen and the poets

performed in that environment while a subtle recording of Times Square played in the background.



“Over Heard”, Sam Jablon, installation view at Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Los Angeles, 2016

LMM: Upcoming soon, your solo show *Over Heard* opens at Diane Rosenstein in L.A. Please share more about the exhibition and your work included.

SJ: All the text for this show comes from what I overheard in public. I wrote down a lot of phrases, and then edited them and combined to use for paintings. This show is very painterly. The text is illegible for the most part, in the past I have always made the words difficult to make out but legible. They are still somewhat legible, but I didn’t want the works to feel like codes to figure out, I wanted them to be paintings, so I pushed the paint.

LMM: What is your favorite part about being an artist and do you have any advice for younger artists just entering the field?

SJ: I like the freedom of being an artist, and seeing ideas come to fruition. I think it is important to give yourself a lot of creative room to cultivate a unique voice. There are a lot of trends, and it is easy to get caught up in them.