

Benjamin Gardner

Des Moines, Iowa

benjaminagardner@gmail.com

www.benjaminagardner.com

education

- 2005 MFA, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.
- 2001 BFA, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois.

solo exhibitions

- 2016 *Evensong 19 (after whenever)*, Unity Gallery, Maharishi University, Fairfield, Iowa.
- 2013 *Evensong 15 (caudex)*, DEMO Projects, Springfield, Illinois.
The Soothsayer. Box 13, Houston, Texas.
- 2012 *Mesmerism and 16 lights*. CSU Gallery, Minnesota State University Mankato, Mankato, Minnesota.
songs of the night. FLUXX Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa.
as above so below: the thought of morning and breathing. Heavy Brow Gallery, Bloomington, Illinois.
A Dream of Heard Music and What is Left Behind. Morton College, Morton, Illinois.
The Stars Spell Silence. Best Friends Gallery, Arlington Heights, Illinois.
To Being in the World; For We Have Displaced Ourselves in All Dimensions and Units of Measurement. Peoria Art Guild, Peoria, Illinois.
For Those Who Need Protection From the Variety of Troubles and Surprises. BS Space, Iowa City, Iowa.
- 2011 *Although We Reflect Our Surroundings...* Times Club at Prairie Lights, Iowa City, Iowa.
- 2010 *apophatic time*. Violet Poe Projects, Bloomington, Illinois.
Evensong #4 (affirming the night). Farnham Gallery, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa.
- 2007 *The Reflecting Subject*. Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Illinois.
- 2005 *to the one not in the room*. University Galleries, Normal, Illinois.
- 2001 *Farmland's Heavy*. Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois.

selected group exhibitions

- 2016 *Fiction (with only daylight between us)*, Boeckercontemporary, Heidleberg, Germany
Faculty Exhibition. Anderson Gallery, Drake University. Des Moines, Iowa.
Black and White Project / NYC. Transmitter, Brooklyn, New York.
Pacts and Invocations: Magic and Ritual in Contemporary Art. Spartanburg Art Museum. Spartanburg, South Carolina.
4 Solos. Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa.
Gallery Molly Krom, Art on Paper, New York, New York.
- 2015 *Winter Group Show*, Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa.
Art in America, Satellite Art Fair, Miami Beach, Florida.
- 2015 DUSK Editions, Satellite Art Fair, Miami Beach, Florida.
Embossed (DUSK), Look&listen, Saint-Chamas, France.
Embossed (DUSK), Gallery Molly Krom, New York, New York.
Three Visions, Transient Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa.

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- 2014 *I'm Jealous of Your Failures*, Univeristy of Illinois at Springfield.
Forces at Play, Gallery Molly Krom, New York, New York [Catalogue].
Works on Paper, Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa.
Selections from the Permenant Collection, University Galleries, Normal, Illinois.
Untitled for Black Mountain College (w/ Bill Conger). Window, Asheville, North Carolina.
Whimsy, ICON Art, Fairfield, Iowa.
Above and Below. Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.
- 2013 *Haxan Daze*, Normandale Community College, Bloomington, Minnesota.
Define Drawing. McLean County Art Center, Bloomington, Illinois.
The House of Seven Gables. University Galleries, Bloomington, Illinois. [Catalogue]
Rooted, Grounded. Design Cloud Gallery, Chicago, Illinois.
Auspice. Jan Brandt Gallery, Bloomington, Illinois.
Rural American Contemporary Art Juried Exhibition. Ridgewater Community College, Hutchinson, Minnesota.
Kentucky National. Clara M. Eagle Gallery. Murray, Kentucky. [Catalogue]
- 2012 *DrawBack*. Backspace Collective, Peoria, Illinois.
Degrees. Swell Gallery. West Dundee, Illinois.
Bemis Center Regional Juried Exhibition. Bemis Underground, Omaha, Nebraska.
- 2011 *Rural American Contemporary Artists*. St. Peter Art Center, St. Peter, Minnesota.
Walser-Drop. Flying Object, Hadley, Massachusetts.
ABSTRKT. Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, Ohio.
I Am Two With Nature. Tugboat Gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska.
Spotlights. Rebekah Templeton Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2010 *Open Door 6*. Rosalux Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
2010 Alumni Spectacular. University Galleries, Normal, Illinois.
21st Annual Juried Exhibition. Contemporary Arts Center, Las Vegas, Nevada.
The Conjured. Dog and Pony Projects, Buffalo, New York.
apophatic time. Violet Poe Projects, Bloomington, Illinois.
Iowa Artists 2010. Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa. [Catalogue]
Texas National 2010. The Cole Art Center, Nacogdoches, Texas.
Juried Exhibition. Instinct Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa.
Blind Proxy. Desotorow Gallery, Savannah, Georgia.
The Indirect Index. Morgan-Hammond Print Gallery, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.
- 2009 *Illinois*. McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, Illinois.
Faculty Biennial. Anderson Gallery, Drake University.
The Indirect Index. Transpace Gallery, Normal, Illinois.
- 2008 *Faculty Biennial*. University Galleries, Normal, Illinois.
- 2007 *Without Like or As: Painting and Poetics*. University Galleries.
...and I am blue... McLean County Arts Center.

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- 2007 *The Language of Evidence*. Studio: Douglas, Bloomington, Illinois.
You Say Goodbye and I Say Hello. McLean County Arts Center, Bloomington, Illinois.
- 2006 *Alumni Biennial*. University Galleries, Normal, Illinois.
Representation and Being. 33 Collective Gallery, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2006 *but you gave me flowers*. University Galleries.
This Moment. Vergette Gallery, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.
Painter as Mentor. McLean County Arts Center.
- 2005 *Between Visions*. Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois.
Idir Aisling (Between Visions). South Tipperary Art Center, Clonmel, Ireland.
The Modern Landscape. Springfield Art Association, Springfield, Illinois.
Sophisticated Traveler Again. Stray Show/Art Chicago. Butler Field, Chicago, Illinois.
Intimate Immensities. TranSpace Gallery, Normal, Illinois.
- 2004 *Sketches, Scrawls, Scribbles and Such III*. The Wiggle Room, San Antonio, Texas.
Sketches, Scrawls, Scribbles and Such II. The Stray Show, Chicago, Illinois.
...And Now For Something Completely Different. Unit B (Gallery). Chicago, Illinois.
Sophisticated Traveler at the Stray Show. The Stray Show, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2003 *So Squared*. McLean County Arts Center.
Sketches, Scrawls, Scribbles and Such. Unit B (Gallery), Chicago, Illinois.
- 2002 *12 and Under*. O'H + T Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts.
Off-hand Paintings by Barbarians. Goatsilk Gallery, Missoula, Montana.
- 2001 *63rd Annual National Exhibition of Contemporary American Paintings*. The Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach, Florida.

affiliations

Moberg Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa

public works

2014 Des Moines Social Club (mural)

2014 Art on Dart, Des Moines, Iowa (sculpture on public transit)

professional experience

Chair, Department of Art and Design, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

2014 - current

Associate Professor of Art and Design, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

2014 - current

Assistant Professor of Art and Design, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

2008 – 2014

Instructional Assistant Professor, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

2006 - 2008

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grants and awards

- 2015 Friends of Drake Arts Grant
- 2014 Faculty Development Major Research Grant, Drake University.
Third Place Award, *Young Painters Competition*, Miami University of Ohio.
- 2013 Faculty Development Support Grant, Drake University.
- 2012 Faculty Development Major Research Grant, Drake University.
- 2011 John August Course Development Grant, Drake University.
Honors Professor of the Year, Drake University.
Faculty Development Support Grant, Drake University.
Friends of Drake Arts Grant

presentations / lectures / visiting artist positions

- 2016 "Head of a Saint / Empires". Center for Humanities Colloquium, Drake University.
- 2013 Society for Utopian Studies Conference, Charleston, South Carolina
Panel Organizer, "Utopias, Place, and Image"
Presentation titled "Regionalism, Commodification, and Use Aesthetics"
- 2012 University of North Carolina Charlotte, Visiting Artist / Print Edition
University of Dayton, Visiting Artist / Print Edition with Advanced
Printmaking class
- 2011 Idaho State University, Visiting Artist
- 2009 "Towards a New Vade Mecum". Center for the Book, University of Iowa.
- 2007 Brigham Young University, Visiting Artist Program
- 2006 Minnesota State University Mankato, Guest Lecturer
- 2006 Southern Illinois University, Visiting Artist Program

collections

Merchants Bonding Company, West Des Moines, Iowa
Clay and Tamara Masters, Des Moines, Iowa
Allison and Brian Hatcher, Boston, MA
Petra Nimitz, Woodstock, NY
Debrah Smith, Kansas City, KS
John and Amy Heshelman, Naperville, IL
Molly Merson, New York, NY
Brian Porray, Los Angeles, CA
Bill and Michelle Conger, Peoria, IL
Kendra and Ryan Paitz, Bloomington, IL
Barry Blinderman, Bloomington, IL
University Galleries, Illinois State University
President's Office and Residence, Drake University
Danica Phelps, Brooklyn, NY

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publications of writing

“without words: experience and abstraction” *everyday abstraction* catalogue “Images and Things: Emily Newman at FLUXX” Iowa City Arts Review

“Susan Chrysler White at Olson-Larsen” www.artbeacondesmoines.com

“Beyond Un/Conventionality: Tony Feher” www.artbeacondesmoines.com

“on Salvage, order-of-things, and usefulness” essay for Salvage exhibition by Jan Brandt at Rex Recycled, Chicago, Illinois. January 2012.

“The Motive of Form: Michael Wille at violet poe projects”, essay for Episode(s) exhibition by Michael Wille at violet poe projects, Bloomington, Illinois. 2011 *middle states* exhibition catalogue, essay, 2010.

“On the Invisible Practice of Painting.” *Painter as Mentor* exhibition catalogue, Mclean County Art Center, Bloomington, Illinois. 2006.

publications of artwork

built ft2 Des Moines Art Center

The Black and White Project: Contemporary Black and White Paintings, Summer 2016. Look&Listen, Saint-Chamas, France.

Studio Visit Magazine, Winter 2012.

New American Paintings #83, August 2009.

New American Paintings #59, August, 2005.

Chicago Reader. June 26, 2003. Work featured in section 2, page 29.

Chicago Journal. June 12, 2003. Work featured on page 13.

New American Paintings #41. September 2002.

curatorial projects

dust. Viaduct Gallery, Des Moines, Iowa. December 2014.

everyday abstraction. Anderson Gallery, Drake University, November 2014.

middle states. Anderson Gallery, Drake University, January 2011.

Without Like or As: Painting and Poetics. University Galleries, Normal, Illinois. 2007.