



## Aaron T Stephan

My work presents a wry look at the world around me - focusing on the complex web of information carried by everyday materials and objects.

I begin any project with an intense amount of research, which then leads into the making process. A successful project fully integrates this information in a way that the art object becomes part of the research itself. This is a process of making formal, physical, and contextual sense of the world around me - while the materials I use, and the ideas I explore, come directly out of that environment. These projects take a variety of forms - from a yearslong exploration of the cultural significance of the ubiquitous concrete block, to an ongoing series of cyanotypes made in the tradition of the architectural blueprint.

### Public Collections:

- Portland Museum of Art
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center
- University of Southern Maine Museum of Art
- University of Maine Museum of Art
- Bates College

### Public Commissions:

- 2023 *Expanding Field*, Seattle, WA
- 2022 *Woven Lines*, Altoona, IA  
*Unfolding Lights*, GLX Lowell Street Station, Somerville, MA
- 2021 *Paths Rising*, Tampa International Airport, Tampa, FL  
*Luminous Bound*, Montana RTS Far East Transfer Center, El Paso, TX
- 2020 *Luminous Remembrance*, Lubbock Tornado Memorial, Lubbock, TX
- 2019 *Luminous Arbor*, City of Portland, Portland, ME
- 2018 *Paths Woven*, San Diego International Airport, San Diego, CA
- 2016 Gold Pour, RTD Gold Strike Station, Arvada CO  
*Point of View*, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2015 *Variations*, Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX  
*Accumulate*, Clearwater Fire Station 45, Clearwater, FL
- 2014 *Downpour*, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester NH



- 2013 *Paths Crossed*, Wishard Hospital, Indianapolis, IN  
*Composition*, Music City Center, Nashville, TN
- 2012 *Illuminations*, WG Mallett Elementary School, Farmington ME  
*Becoming*, Hampden Academy, Hampden ME
- 2011 *Paths Open*, Jefferson Village School, Jefferson, ME  
*Spun*, The City of Cambridge, MA
- 2010 *Return*, Westbrook Middle School, Westbrook ME
- 2009 *Intersect*, U.S. Jackman Border Crossing Facility, Jackman ME
- 2007 *Sphere*, SeDoMoCha Elementary School, Dover-Foxcroft ME  
*Situate*, Farwell Elementary School, Lewiston, ME
- 2006 *Globe*, Carrabec Community School, Anson ME  
*Dig*, Biddeford Middle School, Biddeford ME
- 2005 *Lift*, University of Southern Maine Community Education Center, Portland ME

**Selected Solo Exhibitions:**

- 2021 *Untitled Monuments*, Dowling Walsh Gallery, Rockland, ME
- 2019 *Intermediate Submittal*, Dowling Walsh Gallery, Rockland, ME
- 2017 *Cement Houses and How to Build Them*, Locust Projects, Miami FL  
*Flat World & 30 Columns*, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT
- 2016 *Book/House*, Quint Contemporary Art, La Jolla CA
- 2014 *To Borrow, Cut, Copy and Steal*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland ME  
Aaron T Stephan, McIninch Art Gallery, Manchester, NH
- 2013 *Second-Hand Utopias*, DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln MA  
*Art Handling*, Samsøn, Boston MA  
*Paths*, Coleman Burke Gallery, Brunswick ME
- 2012 *Aggressive Uninterest*, Aucocisco Gallery, Portland ME
- 2011 *Corporeal*, Aucocisco Gallery, Portland ME
- 2009 *Taken Out of Context*, Whitney Artworks, Portland ME  
*Vessels Absent*, University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor ME
- 2008 *Building Houses/Hiding Under Rocks*, Quint Contemporary Art, La Jolla CA
- 2007 *The Problem with Ladders*, Whitney Artworks, Portland ME
- 2006 *Response*, Gallery at Solomon Falls, Sol. Falls NH



- 2005 *Full of Theses*, Whitney Artworks, Portland ME
- 2004 *Obvious in Repair*, Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Hartford CN
- 2003 *Weighing My Options*, Space, Portland ME

**Selected Group Exhibitions:**

- 2022 *The View from Here*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME  
*7 Artists, 7 Stations*, FPAC Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2021 *Rock Row: Inside and Outside the Box*, Rock Row, Westbrook, ME  
*Simple Twist*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME
- 2020 *Cyanotypes*, Cove Street Arts, Portland, ME  
*Tokens of Appreciation*, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan WI
- 2019 *10,000 Hours +*, Speedwell Projects, Portland, ME
- 2018 *Land-Sc(r)aping*, Living Arts, Tulsa, OK
- 2017 *NADA Miami*, w/ Locust Projects, Miami, FL  
*Materiality*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockland, ME  
*Construct*, Dowling Walsh Gallery, Rockland, ME  
*The Apartment*, Space, Portland ME
- 2015 *Pulse NY Art Fair*, with Sienna Gallery, New York, NY  
*Me, Mona and Mao*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME
- 2014 *Untitled Art Fair*, with Samsøn, Miami, FL  
*Self*, Engine, Biddeford ME
- 2012 *CMCA Biennial Exhibition*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport ME  
*Covet*, Sienna Gallery, Lennox, MA  
*Portes*, Mytilene Public Gallery, Mytilene, Greece  
*Strangers and Others*, Pace Galleries at Fryeburg Academy, Fryeburg, ME
- 2011 *Seeing Is Knowing*, Weitz Center at Carlton College, Northfield, MN  
*Meredyth and Meg Go 3d*, Gallery Naga, Boston MA  
*Above and Below The Line*, Pace Galleries at Fryeburg Academy, Fryeburg, ME
- 2010 *4 In Maine*, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland ME  
*The Imaged Word*, Albany Airport Gallery, Albany, NY



- The Arch.* of Environmental Landscapes, University of New England, Westbrook ME
- 2009 *Three Decades of Contemporary Art*, California Center for the Arts, Escondido CA  
*Collage: Piecing It Together*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME  
*Aggregate*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland ME  
*Just Look at Yourself*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport ME
- 2008 *The Moment at Hand*, John Michael Kohler Art Center, Sheboygan WI  
*Aggregate*, Troy Arts Center, Troy NY
- 2007 *Tiny*, Whitney Artworks, Portland ME  
*The Marriage of True Minds*, University of New England, Westbrook ME  
*Reverence and Reference*, Gallery at Solomon Falls, Sol. Falls NH
- 2006 *Time*, Filament Gallery, Portland ME  
*CMCA Biennial Exhibition*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport ME
- 2004 *Home*, DUMBO Art Center, Brooklyn NY  
*The Persistence of Becoming*, Nave Gallery, Somerville MA  
*3DX4*, Icon Gallery, Brunswick ME
- 2003 *Meca Alumni Exhibition*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland ME  
*Alter*, Filament Gallery, Portland ME  
*Portland Biennial*, Portland Museum of Art, Portland ME  
*Remains*, Lamont Gallery, Exeter NH  
*Curiosity*, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport ME
- 2002 *Plow*, Space, Portland ME
- 2001 *The Sacred and Profane*, Battery Steele, Peaks Is., Portland ME  
In My Back Yard, Yarmouth ME  
S. A. D., Deep Listening Space, Kingston NY

**Performances/Events:**

- 2019 Point of Failure, Portland, ME
- 2018 Oyster/Block, Athens, GA
- 2016 I. Make. Stuff., State Theater, Portland, ME
- 2015 Inside, Outside, Above, Below, Thompson's Point, Portland, ME
- 2014 Substance, a series of culinary events at the artist's home, Portland ME
- 2011 Another Evening of BS With Aaron T Stephan, Space, Portland ME



- 2009 Closer, Coleman Burke Gallery, Brunswick ME
- 2006 Aaron T Stephan Is a Hack, Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland ME
- 2004 Problems and Complexities in Conceptual Art, Space, Portland ME  
What Words Become (coll. w/ Chris Holt), Space, Portland ME  
Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport ME
- 2003 Revisiting Artist Lecture, Stillhouse Theatre Portland, ME

**Education:**

- MFA, Maine College of Art, Portland ME 2002
- BFA in sculpture, (SUNY) Purchase College, Purchase NY 1996
- Post Baccalaureate studies, State University of New York at New Paltz NY 1999
- Undergraduate study, Hogeschool Voor Kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands 1994 – 1995

**Residencies:**

- 2012 Hewnoaks, Lovell, ME  
Edenfred Arts Residency, Madison, WI
- 2008 Kohler Artist-in-Residence, Sheboygan WI
- 2005 Yaddo, Saratoga Springs NY
- 2002 Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan ME

**Bibliography:**

- 2022 “650 Ladders - Aaron T Stephan’s Sculpture...” World Art News
- 2021 Bob Keyes, “No More Concerts, but Rock Row...” Portland Press Herald  
Paul Koenig “The Portland Artist Creating Dialogue with Everyday Objects” Maine Magazine  
Natasha Gural “Aaron T Stephan’s Colossal Sculpture and Intricate Cyanotypes...” Forbes  
Christian MilNeil “New Green Line Stops...” StreetsBlog Mass
- 2020 Anna Mazurek, “4 Art Road Trips to Take This Fall” Washington Post  
Natasha Gural “Live Gallery Experience Resumes...” Forbes  
Natasha Gural “Beauty in Seclusion” Portland Monthly  
Stacey Kors “Art Q&A: Sculptors Aaron Stephan & Lauren Fenster...” Portland Press Herald
- 2019 Bob Keyes, “Artist Hopes Lighted Sculpture...” Maine Sunday Telegram
- 2018 “20th Anniversary Retrospective” Locust Projects



- “Luminous Arbor Lights Up...” Portland Press Herald
- David Harry, “Light the Lamps...” The Forcaster
- Randy Billings, “Portland Artist Ready to Plant...” Portland Press Herald
- “Monumental Sculpture Installed...” ArtDaily
- Rob Caldwell, “Creating Art Out of Ladders” 207 News Center Maine
- Bob Keyes, “Sculptor’s Pieces Says...” Portland Press Herald
- 2017 Anne Tschida, “Bricks and Butterflies”, Miami Biscayne Times
- Claire Barliant, “Public Art Starts the Conversation”, Art New England
- Featured, “Knowledge”, Capitel Magazine
- 2016 Taryn Plumb, “Inventive and Inspired”, Artscope
- Rebecca Falzano, Building Stories, Old Port Magazine
- “Sculpture Horizon” Portland Magazine
- Ashley Stilson, “Near or Far: New Salt Lake Art Piece...” Deseret News
- Bill Nemitz, “Brave Artist Ready for Portland” Maine Sunday Telegram
- 2015 Bob Keyes, “Me, Mona, and Mao...” Maine Today
- 2015 Christopher Papagni, “Dining Art: Inside, Outside, Above, Below...” The Portland Phoenix
- 2014 Heather Hearst, “Extraordinary of the Ordinary”, Dispatch
- Jamie Thompson, “Aaron Stephan Laughs with Us”, Artscope
- Mariah Bergeron, “Critique the Hand that Feeds You”, The Portland Phoenix
- NPR/MPBN, “A Portland Sculpture Talks Art on Sex Lines”
- Bob Keyes, “Stephan Encourages Visitors to Think Outside...”, Maine Sunday Telegram
- David Raymond, “Aaron Stephan: Downpour”, Art New England
- Diane Georgopulos, “At Issue: Reading Rooms”, Architecture Boston
- Laura Landro, “More Hospitals Buy into the Healing Powers of Public Art”, Wall Street Journal
- Mariah Berger, “The Existential Artist”, The Portland Phoenix
- “50 Mainers Shaping Our State”, Maine Magazine
- “Unconventional: Nashville’s Music City Center”
- 2013 Cate McQuaid, “Images that echo through time and spaces” Boston Globe
- Cate McQuaid, “Platforms for amusement” Boston Globe
- NYArts Magazine, “Art and Ageism: The Decisive Eye of Fellow Artists”
- Daniel Kany, “Follow Stephan’s Maze of Paths”, Maine Sunday Telegram
- 2012 Britta Konau, “Recalling the Year’s most Notable Shows”, The Portland Phoenix



- Daniel Kany, "Flirting with a New form of Conceptual Art", Maine Sunday Telegram
- Nicholas Schroeder "Meeting 'Strangers'..." The Portland Phoenix
- Eric Moskowitz, "Contest Aims to Move Cambridge...", Boston Sunday Globe
- 2011 Dennis Hoey, "Art Committee Seeks Input", Portland Press Herald
- "Recent Projects", Public Art Review
- Daniel Kany, "Pop Art Sensibilities Add Excitement to Show", Maine Sunday Telegram
- Nicholas Schroeder "Two Artist Show at Aucocisco Explores..." The Portland Phoenix
- Cate McQuaid, "A Compelling Look...", Boston Globe
- Bob Keyes, "New on the Scene", Portland Press Herald
- 2010 Tom Keyser, "Word Play", Albany Times Union
- Jordan Reardon, "Visualizing the 'Word'", The Albany Post-Star
- Nadine Wasserman, "Picture Books", Albany Metroland
- Edgar Allen Beem, "Art on the Edge", Down East Magazine
- Bob Keyes, "Sculptor Goes Diving..", Portland Press Herald
- 2009 Jamie Thompson, "Collective Consciousness" Portland Press Herald
- Edgar Allen Beem, "Art as Installation and Performance", Yankee Magazine
- Daniel Kany, "Sparks, Sputters and Sparkles at MECA", Maine Sunday Telegram
- Annie Larmon, "Topographic Musings", The Portland Phoenix
- Ken Greenleaf, "Combining Influences", The Portland Phoenix
- Jessica Bloch, "Crate Expectations", Bangor Daily News
- 2008 Tom Bell, "Boom or Bust" Portland Press Herald
- Kate Bucklin, "Tall Order", The Portland Forecaster
- Robert L. Pincus, "Aaron T. Stephan Builds A House of Books", San Diego Union-Tribune
- Erin Glass, "The Perilous Adventures of the Book in the Modern Age", The Streets
- 2007 Avery Yale Kamila, "Small Makes a Big Impact at Whitney", The Maine Switch
- Chris Thomson, "Fact or Friction", The Portland Phoenix
- 2006 Bob Keyes, "Biddeford's Big Dig" Maine Sunday Telegram
- Beatrice Marovich, "Monument: A Tribute to Imagination, Adventure", York Journal Tribune
- "Recent Commissions", Sculpture Magazine
- David Becker "History of the Print in Maine"
- Bob Keyes, "It's all in there...", Portland Press Herald
- 2005 Chris Thomson, "Can you DIG it?", The Portland Phoenix



Chris Thomson, "Tower of Babble", The Portland Phoenix  
Featured, Ambit, London, England

- 2004 Bob Keyes, "For the NYC show...", Portland Press Herald  
Kristen Anderson, "New York Curator gives...", Bangor Daily News
- 2003 Bob Keyes, "Maine College of Art's Grad Bag", Portland Press Herald  
Chris Thomson, "Playing with Matches", The Portland Phoenix  
Philip Isaacson, "PMA Biennial...", Maine Sunday Telegram  
Sarah Morneau, "Re-contextualize this", The Portland Phoenix  
Bob Keyes, "Talent Times 2", Portland Press Herald

### **Teaching:**

- 2018 Instructor, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Deer Isle, ME
- 2017 Artist-Teacher, Vermont College of Fine Arts, VT
- 2015 Artist Mentor, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Manchester, NH
- 2013 Adjunct Professor, Maine College of Art, Portland, ME
- 2012 Artist Mentor, The Art Institute of Boston, MFA in Visual Arts Program, Boston, MA
- 2009-13  
Non-Residency Studio Instructor, Maine College of Art, MFA, Portland, ME
- 2007 Adjunct Professor, Central Maine Community College, Auburn, ME
- 2005 Visiting Instructor, Maine College of Art, Portland, ME
- 2004 Visiting Instructor, Currier Art Museum, Manchester, NH
- 2003 Visiting Instructor, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, NH

### **Lectures/Workshops/Critiques:**

- Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- University of Georgia Athens
- Locust Projects
- Shelburne Museum
- Colby College
- DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
- Rhode Island School of Design
- University of Maine at Orono
- Farnsworth Art Museum
- Portland Museum of Art
- University of Maine Museum of Art
- Bowdoin College
- Central Maine Community College





- University of Southern Maine
- John Michael Kohler Arts Center
- Maine College of Art
- Center for Maine Contemporary Art
- Chester College
- Union of Maine Visual Artists
- Space Gallery
- University of Maine at Farmington
- Institute of Contemporary Art, Portland, ME
- Saco Museum

**Awards and Scholarships:**

2009,2011,2014

Good Idea Grant, Maine Arts Commission

2005 Louise Bourgeois Residency for Sculpture, Yaddo Artist Residency

2002 Zorach Fellowship, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture