



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 years-long 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 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
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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

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
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- 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

Hewnoaks, Lovell, ME 2021

Edenfred Arts Residency, Madison, WI 2012

Kohler Artist-in-Residence, Sheboygan WI 2008

Yaddo, Saratoga Springs NY 2005

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan ME 2002



Bibliography

"650 Ladders - Aaron T Stephan's Sculpture..." World Art News, June 2022

Bob Keyes, "No More Concerts, but Rock Row..." Portland Press Herald, Sept 2021

Paul Koenig "The Portland Artist Creating Dialogue with Everyday Objects" Maine Magazine, Aug 2021

Natasha Gural "Aaron T Stephan's Colossal Sculpture and Intricate Cyanotypes..." Forbes, May 2021

Christian MilNeil "New Green Line Stops..." StreetsBlog Mass, March 2021

Anna Mazurek, "4 Art Road Trips to Take This Fall" Washington Post, Oct 2020

Natasha Gural "Live Gallery Experience Resumes..." Forbes, Sept 2020

Natasha Gural "Beauty in Seclusion" Portland Monthly, June 2020

Stacey Kors "Art Q&A: Sculptors Aaron Stephan & Lauren Fenster..." Portland Press Herald, May 2020

Bob Keyes, "Artist Hopes Lighted Sculpture..." Maine Sunday Telegram, June 2019

"20th Anniversary Retrospective" Locust Projects, Dec 2018

"Luminous Arbor Lights Up..." Portland Press Herald, November 2018

David Harry, "Light the Lamps..." The Forcaster, November 2018

Randy Billings, "Portland Artist Ready to Plant..." Portland Press Herald, October 2018

"Monumental Sculpture Installed..." ArtDaily, Aug 2018

Rob Caldwell, "Creating Art Out of Ladders" 207 News Center Maine, April 2018

Bob Keyes, "Sculptor's Pieces Says..." Portland Press Herald, March 2018

Anne Tschida, "Bricks and Butterflies", Miami Biscayne Times, Oct 2017

Claire Barliant, "Public Art Starts the Conversation", Art New England, Jan 2017

Featured, "Knowledge", Capitel Magazine, Jan 2017

Taryn Plumb, "Inventive and Inspired", Artscope, Nov 2016

Rebecca Falzano, Building Stories, Old Port Magazine, Nov 2016

"Sculpture Horizon" Portland Magazine, Aug 2016

Ashley Stilson, "Near or Far: New Salt Lake Art Piece..." Deseret News, Aug 2016

Bill Nemitz, "Brave Artist Ready for Portland" Maine Sunday Telegram, June 2016

Bob Keyes, "Me, Mona, and Mao..." Maine Today, November 2015

Christopher Papagni, "Dining Art: Inside, Outside, Above, Below..." The Portland Phoenix, October 2015



Heather Hearst, "Extraordinary of the Ordinary", Dispatch, Dec 2014

Jamie Thompson, "Aaron Stephan Laughs with Us", Artscope, November 2014

Mariah Bergeron, "Critique the Hand that Feeds You", The Portland Phoenix, October 2014

NPR/MPBN, "A Portland Sculpture Talks Art on Sex Lines", Sept 2014

Bob Keyes, "Stephan Encourages Visitors to Think Outside...", Maine Sunday Telegram, Sept 2014

David Raymond, "Aaron Stephan: Downpour", Art New England, Sept 2014

Diane Georgopoulos, "At Issue: Reading Rooms", Architecture Boston, Summer 2014

Laura Landro, "More Hospitals Buy into the Healing Powers of Public Art", Wall Street Journal, Aug 2014

Mariah Berger, "The Existential Artist", The Portland Phoenix, June 2014

"50 Mainers Shaping Our State", Maine Magazine, June 2014

"Unconventional: Nashville's Music City Center", Jan. 2014

Cate McQuaid, "Images that echo through time and spaces" Boston Globe, September 2013

Cate McQuaid, "Platforms for amusement" Boston Globe, August 2013

NYArts Magazine, "Art and Ageism: The Decisive Eye of Fellow Artists", June 2013

Daniel Kany, "Follow Stephan's Maze of Paths", Maine Sunday Telegram, April 2013

Britta Konau, "Recalling the Year's most Notable Shows", The Portland Phoenix, Dec 2012

Daniel Kany, "Flirting with a New form of Conceptual Art", Maine Sunday Telegram, October 2012

Nicholas Schroeder "Meeting 'Strangers'..." The Portland Phoenix, May 2012

Eric Moskowitz, "Contest Aims to Move Cambridge...", Boston Sunday Globe, Feb. 2012

Dennis Hoey, "Art Committee Seeks Input", Portland Press Herald, August 2011

"Recent Projects", Public Art Review, Spring 2011

Daniel Kany, "Pop Art Sensibilities Add Excitement to Show", Maine Sunday Telegram, March 2011

Nicholas Schroeder "Two Artist Show at Aucocisco Explores..." The Portland Phoenix, September 2011

Cate McQuaid, "A Compelling Look...", Boston Globe, Jan. 2011

Bob Keyes, "New on the Scene", Portland Press Herald, Jan. 2011

Tom Keyser, "Word Play", Albany Times Union, August 2010

Jordan Reardon, "Visualizing the 'Word'", The Albany Post-Star, August 2010

Nadine Wasserman, "Picture Books", Albany Metroland, August 2010

Edgar Allen Beem, "Art on the Edge", Down East Magazine, August 2010

Bob Keyes, "Sculptor Goes Diving..", Portland Press Herald, March 2010



Jamie Thompson, "Collective Consciousness" Portland Press Herald, Oct 2009

Edgar Allen Beem, "Art as Installation and Performance", Yankee Magazine, Dec 2009

Daniel Kany, "Sparks, Sputters and Sparkles at MECA", Maine Sunday Telegram, Oct 2009

Annie Larmon, "Topographic Musings", The Portland Phoenix, September 2009

Ken Greenleaf, "Combining Influences", The Portland Phoenix, June 2009

Jessica Bloch, "Crate Expectations", Bangor Daily News, April 2009

Tom Bell, "Boom or Bust" Portland Press Herald, November 2008

Kate Bucklin, "Tall Order", The Portland Forecaster, June 2008

Robert L. Pincus, "Aaron T. Stephan Builds A House of Books", San Diego Union-Tribune, January 2008

Erin Glass, "The Perilous Adventures of the Book in the Modern Age", The Streets, January 2008

Avery Yale Kamila, "Small Makes a Big Impact at Whitney", The Maine Switch, December 2007

Chris Thomson, "Fact or Friction", The Portland Phoenix, September 2007

Bob Keyes, "Biddeford's Big Dig" Maine Sunday Telegram, Dec 2006

Beatrice Marovich, "Monument: A Tribute to Imagination, Adventure", York Journal Tribune, Nov. 2006

"Recent Commissions", Sculpture Magazine, October 2006

David Becker "History of the Print in Maine" published 2006

Bob Keyes, "It's all in there...", Portland Press Herald, April 2006

Chris Thomson, "Can you DIG it?", The Portland Phoenix, November 2005

Chris Thomson, "Tower of Babble", The Portland Phoenix, April 2005

Featured, Ambit, London, England, April 2005

Bob Keyes, "For the NYC show...", Portland Press Herald, May 2004

Kristen Anderson, "New York Curator gives...", Bangor Daily News, January 2004

Bob Keyes, "Maine College of Art's Grad Bag", Portland Press Herald, November 2003

Chris Thomson, "Playing with Matches", The Portland Phoenix, September 2003

Philip Isaacson, "PMA Biennial...", Maine Sunday Telegram, May 2003

Sarah Morneau, "Re-contextualize this", The Portland Phoenix, March 2003

Bob Keyes, "Talent Times 2", Portland Press Herald, February 2003

Teaching



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

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

Honors & Awards

Louise Bourgeois Residency for Sculpture, Yaddo Artist Residency 2005

Good Idea Grant, Maine Arts Commission 2009, 2011, 2014

Zorach Fellowship, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture 2002

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