Adam de Boer

b. 1984 Riverside, CA, US

STATEMENT

My current work addresses a hybrid cultural identity that I recognize in myself and throughout my generation. I was born in California into a Dutch-Indonesian, middle-class household. The loose self-definition in my family made it possible to have flexible belief systems and customs. Many of my generation whose families are cultural hybrids find their way to an ever-changing cultural identity. We live not just by the traditions from which we come but the unique paths we traverse. We are less aggressive about our place in the multicultural dialog than previous generations, having never experienced just one identity nor the pressures of accompanying stereotypes. Our hybrid identities are still born from dislocation, but the strife has been either left behind or ignored.

In recent work, I revive dormant cultural histories and aesthetic traditions from my Indonesian heritage as a way to acknowledge that part of my identity. I learned my forebears' traditional crafts of batik and woodcarving, employing Javanese and Eurasian-specific imagery into my practice as a conceptual link to my heritage, while further pushing the crafts outside traditional boundaries. The handmade is significant to these crafts and in my own work as well. These first experiments with batik take history head-on by questioning the use of iconography and the historical image in the present day, suggesting a return to the lo-fi aesthetic in an age of high-definition. With images informed by a Western childhood and education, I misappropriate and mutate craft traditions outside their prescribed abstract designs into hybrid forms. Successful work is predicated on the capacity of the batik and carvings to be viewed from different, and oftentimes conflicting, vantages and for those perspectives to be embraced because I indeed embody them: East and West, local and tourist, authentic and illegitimate.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Selected Exhibitions
2013
Jalan, Riflemaker, London, UK (solo)
2012
Recent Work, Riflemaker, London, UK
RWS Contemporary Watercolour Exhibition, Bankside Gallery, London, UK
Art Roulette, Frameless Gallery, London, UK
2011
Select, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC, US (Curated by Milena Kalinovska)
2010
Finca, Flashpoint, Washington, DC, US (solo)
Memory Meets Imagination Halfway, DC Arts Center, Washington, DC, US (solo)
The Accretion of Events, Volume Black, New York, NY, US
Sky Was Yellow, Sun Was Blue, Russell Projects, Richmond, VA, US
Cream, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC, US (Curated by Mera Rubell)
Mid-Atlantic New Painting, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA, US
2009
Strictly Painting 7, McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA, US
Reflections and Projections, Channing Peake Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA, US
2008
Inaugural Exhibition, Conner Contemporary Art, Washington, DC, US
2006
All is Well, The Arts Fund, Santa Barbara, CA, US (solo)
Voppi Soppi Yapoo, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA US

Residencies
2013
laagencia, Bogotá, Colombia
2012
International Institute of Fine Art, Modinagar, India

Awards/Fellowships
2011-2012
Arts for India Scholarship, The Chelsea College of Art and Design
2010
Young Artist Program Grant, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Creative Communities Fund Grant, Washington, DC
2009
Small Projects Program Grant, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2008
Young Artist Program Grant, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
Small Projects Program Grant, The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
2005
Individual Artist Award, The Arts Fund of Santa Barbara
2004
Santa Barbara Abrams Prize
2001
Idyllwild Arts Academy

Public Collections
Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, DC, US
Department of Human Services, Arlington, VA, US
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Washington, DC, US
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Washington, DC, US

Press
"Open File." Elephant. London, May 2013:13.
"Issue 23." Less Common More Sense. London, Winter 2012:12.
"Issue #1." Bronze Age Editions. London, Fall 2011:7, 12.
Campello, F. Lennox. 100 Washington, DC Artists. Atglen, Penn.: Schiffer, 2011.
New American Paintings, No. 88, South Edition. Cambridge, Mass.: The Open Studios Press, 2010.

Education
2011-2012
Chelsea College of Art and Design, London, UK (MA)
2002-2006
College of Creative Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, US (BA)
Summer Studio Program, Virginia Commonwealth University, US
Severini School of Art, University of Georgia, Athens, Cortona, IT