



Ryan Peter

It only works if everyone believes it does

July 26 - September 7, 2024

The Green Gallery

1500 N Farwell Ave

Milwaukee, WI

The Green Gallery is pleased to host Ryan Peter, *It only works if everyone believes it does*. This showcase of unique large-scale photograms of the recent past will be the artist's first exhibition with the gallery. Peter's painterly innovation of the photogram process explores conditions of media and representations of the unconscious.

Peter's prints feel digital and of the present, running counter to what is invoked via this intensive, handmade process of the darkroom. The works are generated via layering various plastic films (negatives). These films are often painted or manipulated in some way by a spray application. Compositions are formed front to back through timed out intervals. Peter also makes use of dodging and burning techniques to generate artificial shadows and gradients found within and in between forms. The result is an image that at first glance appears to be a Photoshop collage, but upon closer inspection reveals a rewarding material mystery not of the computer.

There is a duality in Peter's work that opens up a space for reflection about our relationship to the digital as well as painting and drawing. Forms within his compositions carry the weight of a painted stroke disguised behind the flatness of photographic paper. Drawn marks hold immediacy and tactility behind the slick veneer of these glossy surfaces. Where in Photoshop these gestures act as effect; in Peter's work they become more of a trace, albeit from projected light. The material presence of these works helps us think through the various filters information passes through before arriving on the screen space of our present.

Within these photograms we find a shallow space where forms are staged as abstractions alluding to bodies and/or landscapes. For Peter, these decisions come byway of an automatic process; one that is tied both from the hand to mind but also the mind to the digital. In this way, tendencies of the personal as well as the collective fuse to generate works that feel both recognizable but also ghostly. As speckles of light pass through Peter's fabricated negatives, reverberations of material presence and mental wandering allow for an openness of experience.

Ryan Peter, *It only works if everyone believes it does*, opens Friday, July 26th during gallery hours. We invite you to join us for a reception with the artist on Saturday, July 27th from 5-7pm.

Ryan Peter

Lives and works in Milwaukee, WI.

Education

- 2008 MFA, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- 2004 BFA, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 *Platforms: Coastal City*, curated by Karen Henry, various locations, City of Vancouver Public Artwork
The Moon and Other Myths, Republic Gallery, Vancouver
- 2014 *SEDIMENT*, Republic Gallery, Vancouver
- 2012 *A Bunch of Radishes*, Republic Gallery, Vancouver
- 2010 *SPACETIME!*, Republic Gallery, Vancouver
- 2009 *This Is The Future, The Rest Is History*, curated by TARL, Seattle
Abceefhkortttuu, The Ministry of Casual Living, Victoria, BC (collaborative exhibition with Raymond Boisjoly.)
extended periods of time. Occasional napping may be, AMS Gallery, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver (collaborative exhibition with Abbas Akhavan)

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2020 *Winter Works on Paper*, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver
- 2019 *More than 700 Years*, Walter and McBean Galleries, San Francisco
Unearthing, Folding, Burning, Malaspina Artist-Run Center, Vancouver
- 2018 *13 Ways To Summon Ghosts*, curated by Dr Kimberly Phillips, Gordon Smith Foundation, North Vancouver
The Diviners, curated by Marina Roy and Phil McCrum, AHVA Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
Transmundane, curated by Jennifer Matotek, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, Saskatchewan
- 2017-16 *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures*, curated by Daina Augaitis and Jesse McKee, Vancouver Art Gallery
- 2016 *Images That Speak*, curated by Christopher Eamon, The Polygon Gallery, North Vancouver
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- 2014 *Magenta wants to push physical reality to its leaky margins*, Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto
- 2013 *Death and Objects II*, Or Gallery, Vancouver
- 2012 *Never-Dying Worm*, curated by Marina Roy, AVAH Library Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

- 2011 *Never-Dying Worm*, curated by Marina Roy, AVAH Library Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
Alone in the Wilderness, The VERA Project, Seattle
So Many Let Downs Before We Get Up..., curated by Kegan McFadden, Platform Centre for Photographic and Digital Arts, Winnipeg
- 2010 *Saturday Is The New Sunday*, curated by Geoffrey Farmer, Every Letter In The Alphabet, Vancouver (collaboration with Raymond Boisjoly)
FAX, curated by Sophie Brodovitch, Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, BC
Snow, curated by Sophie Brodovitch, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver
- 2009 *Exercises In Seeing*, curated by Post Brothers, Queen's Nails Projects, San Francisco (collaboration with Raymond Boisjoly)
11th Annual RBC Painting Competition, Musee d'art contemporain, Montreal, and The Power Plant, Toronto
- 2008 *The Sooner The Better Late Than Never*, Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery, Vancouver
Showroom, Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art (Centre A), Vancouver (collaboration with Kristina Lee Podesva)
Being There and Elsewhere, Organ Artist-Run Centre, Chongqing, China
- 2007 *Oh What A Blow That Phantom Gave Me*, Belkin Satellite, Vancouver

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2021-22 Project Grant to Visual Artists, Canada Council for the Arts
- 2017 Project Grant to Visual Artists, Canada Council for the Arts
Project Assistance for the Visual Arts Grant, British Columbia Arts Council
- 2015 Project Assistance for the Visual Arts Grant, British Columbia Arts Council
- 2009 Semi-finalist, 11th Annual RBC Painting Competition
- 2007 BC Binning Graduate Fellowship, University of British Columbia

Guest Lectures

- 2018 Artist Talk, Food For Thought Series, San Francisco Art Institute
- 2017 Artist Talk (with Athena Papadopoulos), Department of Art History, Visual Art & Theory, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- 2015 Panel Discussion accompanying the exhibition *Images That Speak*, with Christopher Eamon, Susanne Kriemann, Arthur Ou, and Stephen Waddell, Polygon Gallery, Vancouver
- 2009 Artist Talk (with Raymond Boisjoly), The Western Bridge, Seattle

Teaching

- 2022-25 Lecturer, The Department of Painting and Drawing, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
Adjunct Instructor, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Milwaukee
- 2019-2 Adjunct Professor II, Painting + Drawing and MFA Programs, California College of the Arts, San Francisco

2018-1 Instructor, Painting and MFA Programs, San Francisco Art Institute, San
9 Francisco

2010-1 Sessional Lecturer, Department of Art History, Visual Art, and Theory,
5 The University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Selected Bibliography

- 2018 Randy Lee Cutler et al., *Knowing and Knots: Methodologies and Ecologies in Research-Creation*, University of Alberta Press, Edmonton
Dr Kimberly Phillips et al., *13 Ways To Summon Ghosts*, Information Office, Vancouver
- 2017 April Thompson, "Vancouver Special and the Issue with Local Surveys", *Canadian Art Magazine*, February 16, 2017
Daina Augaitis and Jesse McKee et al., *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures*, Black Dog Publishing, London
- 2016 Kelsey Klassen, "VAG exhibition celebrates Vancouver's 'Pleasures'", *Westender*, December 7, 2016
Marsha Lederman, "Coastal Disturbance: The Vancouver Art Gallery has launched a provocative triennial tribute to the city's artists", *The Globe and Mail*, December 2, 2016
Amanda Siebert, "Works by Laiwan and Ryan Peter part of Vancouver's latest Coastal City public art installations," *The Georgia Straight*, June 14, 2016
- 2015 Rhiannon Herbert, "Capture Photography Festival Highlights, Part 1: Images That Speak," *Black Flash*, May
Sky Gooden, "Interview: Curator Christopher Eamon Troubles the Shifting Form (and Relevance) of Photography," *Momus*, April
Brian Lynch, "Vancouver's Capture festival features the new faces of photography," *The Georgia Straight*, April 1, 2015
- 2014 Randy Lee Cutler, 'Chiggers', *Open Wide: An Abecedarium for the Great Digestive System*, Theory Island Press, Vancouver
- 2013 "Issue 2: Invisibility", *Psychiana Magazine*, New York
JJ Kegan McFadden, 'Ryan Peter', *Haven't We Been Here Before?*, PLATFORM centre for photographic + digital arts, Winnipeg
- 2012 Rachel Rosenfield Lafo, "Ryan Peter: A Bunch of Radishes", *Galleries West*, Fall/Winter
- 2011 Jessica Powers, "Some Humans and Nature", *ArtSlant*, August 7, 2011
Allison Collins, "Wine, Straightforward Meaninglessness, and Other Indecipherable Gestures", *ArtSlant*, March 7, 2011
- 2010 Marsha Lederman, "Review, SPACETIME!", *The Globe and Mail*, July 5, 2010
Malcolm Parry, "Painted Ladies For A Celebrity Crowd", *Vancouver Sun*, February 13, 2010
- 2009 Chris Fitzpatrick, "I'll Find It If You Stop Talking", *ArtSlant*, December 29, 2009
Jen Graves, "TARL Is The Future", *The Stranger*, December 22, 2009
Leah Sandals, "Brush to Judgment", *The National Post*, October 26, 2009
RBC Painting Competition, Royal Bank of Canada, Toronto
- 2008 Jacqueline Mabey, 'Touch Me I'm Sick', *The Sooner The Better Late Than Never* Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, Vancouver, 2008