



Dameon Lester

ARTIST STATEMENT

Dameon Lester's objects portray subtle nods, or riffs, to the likes of minimalism, color field painting, interior design/architecture, culture, and nature. His objects take shape through the use of specific elementary materials, from pipe cleaners to plywood, that guide both the perceptions of the viewer and the aesthetic of the art. The employment of purchased, fabricated, recycled, and repurposed materials help lend the unique physical and formal qualities which evolve into an array of solid surfaces and open-celled, internal structures. Lester's organic and geometric forms blend loose social and art movement references together, creating guided allegories into the consciousness of our civilization for the viewer to personally expand.

BIOGRAPHY

Dameon Lester received his BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, in sculpture, where he studied abroad at Loughborough College of Art and Design in the UK and Technikon Natal in South Africa. He received his MFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, engaging with many internationally recognized artists and critics as visiting faculty. He later attended California State University, Los Angeles, for his teaching credential and to pursue his MA in Special Education.

Lester continues an active art practice, having received numerous grants, recognitions, and opportunities for more than a decade. He draws insight and perspective from many facets of life – including his past work with special-needs children and adults, and highly gifted art students at Otis College of Art and Design.

Since his relocation to Austin, TX, Lester has been establishing a new home-based studio and developing new work.



Dameon Lester

EDUCATION

- 2005 Completed Coursework for MA in Special Education – California State University – Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 Teaching Credential – Special Education, Mild to Moderate Disabilities – California State University – Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 MFA – Emphasis in Sculpture & Art Theory – University of Nevada – Las Vegas, NV
- 1995 BFA – Emphasis in Sculpture – Virginia Commonwealth University – Richmond, VA
- 1995 Study Abroad – Technikon Natal – Durban, South Africa
- 1993-1994 Study Abroad – Loughborough College of Art and Design – Loughborough, England

RESIDENCIES

- 2015 Short Listed – 2016 International Artist-in-Residence Program – Artpace – San Antonio, TX
- 2013 Short Listed – 2014 International Artist-in-Residence Program – Artpace – San Antonio, TX
- 2010 Vermont Studio Center – Johnson, VT – May through June

AWARDS / GRANTS

- 2010 Artist Residency Grant – Vermont Studio Center
- 2009 Honorable Mention – OC Art Grant
- 2005 Apple Teaching Grant
- 2000 Juror's Merit Award – UNLV – Juror: Kim Dingle
Juror's Merit Award – TFAA – Juror: David Pagel
- 1998-2000 Graduate Assistantship – UNLV
- 1997-1998 Private Scholarship – UNLV
- 1995 Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship – VCU – Technikon Natal
- 1993-1994 Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship – VCU – Loughborough College of Art and Design



Advisors + Curators + Purveyors

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *Unnatural Process* – Fifth Floor Gallery – Los Angeles, CA
- 2010 *Kunstmilch Presents: Dameon Lester* – California State University – Long Beach, CA
- 2009 *The Ethnocentric Nature of Line* – Irvine Valley Colledge Art Gallery – Irvine, CA
Works of Paper – Fifth Floor Gallery – Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 *Fantastic Plastic: Shapescapes* – Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art – Las Vegas, NV
- 1999 *Fuzbreed: The Halfway Showing* – Grant Hall Gallery, UNLV – Las Vegas, NV

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Construct* – CAMIBAart – Austin, TX
West Austin Studio Tour – Big Medium – Austin, TX
DUE WEST! – Pop-Up Gallery @ University Park – Austin, TX
Art City Austin – Austin Art Pavilion – Austin, TX – curator: CAMIBAart
The People's Gallery – Austin City Hall – Austin, TX
- 2014 *Art POP* – Studio I Architects – Austin, TX
Art in Public – Austin-Bergstrom International Airport – Austin, TX
ART for CLARE – Silent Art Auction – Bergamot Station – Santa Monica, CA
West Austin Studio Tour – Big Medium – Austin, TX
DUE WEST! – Pop-Up Gallery @ Lincoln Village – Austin, TX
100-4-100 – Silent & Live Art Auction – University Galleries I + II – San Marcos, TX
- 2013 *ART for CLARE* (Silent Art Auction) – Bergamot Station – Santa Monica, CA
REDUX – Desotorow Gallery – Savannah, GA
Group Hug!!! – The Flex Space @ Pump Project Satellite – Austin, TX
The People's Gallery – Austin City Hall – Austin, TX
- 2012 *ART for CLARE* (Silent Art Auction) – Bergamot Station – Santa Monica, CA
West Austin Studio Tour – grayDUCK Gallery – Austin, TX
I'm A Frayed Knot – Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion – Costa Mesa, CA
BIG and BRIGHT: New Work from Texas – Southwestern College Art Gallery – Chula Vista, CA
- 2011 *Pattern Plan* – grayDUCK Gallery – Austin, TX
ART for CLARE (Silent Art Auction) – Bergamot Station – Santa Monica, CA
- 2010 *ART for CLARE* (Silent Art Auction) – Bergamot Station – Santa Monica, CA
OsCene 2010 – Laguna Art Museum – Laguna Beach, CA – Curator: Grace Kook-Anderson
CURATE THIS! 2010 – BECA: Bridge for Emerging Contemporary Art – Online Exhibition
- 2009 *notBig* – Logsdon 1909 Gallery – Chicago, IL – Juror: Doug Stapleton
Geometric Sequence: Random or Otherwise – Caladan Gallery – Cambridge, MA
DigitalArt.LA – LA Center For Digital Art – Los Angeles, CA – Juror: Rita Gonzalez, LACMA



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- MOCA FRESH! Silent Auction* – The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA – Los Angeles, CA
OC Art Grant (Juried Competition & Catalogue) – Santa Ana, CA – Juror: Phyllis J. Lutjeans
Roll Up Long Beach – Jet Studios – Long Beach, CA
Mail Art Festival 2009 – Galeri Shah Alam – Persiaran Tasik, Shah Alm, Malaysia
The Art of Communication – Gallery RFD – Swainsboro, GA
11th Annual Postcards From the Edge Benefit – VISUAL AIDS – New York, NY
- 2008 *Naturally Synthetic* - @space Gallery – Santa Ana, CA
- 2003 *Vegas Baby!* – Elevation Gallery – Atlanta, GA
- 2001 *Artificial Structures* – Raid Projects – Los Angeles, CA
- 2000 *MOMA Members Show* – Alumni Center & Grant Gallery, UNLV – Las Vegas, NV
Student Art Show – Donna Beam Art Gallery, UNLV – Las Vegas, NV – Juror: Kim Dingle
New American Talent: The Fifteenth Exhibition – TFAA – Multiple Locations, TX – Juror: David Pagel
- 1999 *Tri-Art Show* – Government Center – Las Vegas, NV
Annual Auction: Y2Khaos – Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art – Las Vegas, NV
Graduate Student Exhibition – Marjorie Barrick Museum – Las Vegas, NV
Student Art Show – Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art – Las Vegas, NV
MOCA Members Show – Nevada Institute for contemporary Art – Las Vegas, NV
Unctuous Youth – ActionSpace – Los Angeles, CA – Curator: Steven Criqui
- 1998 *Gradbag* – Grant Hall Gallery, UNLV – Las Vegas, NV
The Lab – Las Vegas, NV
Subversive Souvenirs – Contemporary Arts Center Gallery – Las Vegas, NV – Curator: John DeFazio
- 1997 *Public Installation* – Northern Illinois University – DeKalb, IL
- 1995 *Senior Exhibition* – James Center – Richmond, VA
Student Juried Show – Anderson Gallery, VCU – Richmond, VA
Inaugural Exhibition – Durban Arts Center – Durban, South Africa
- 1994 *LCAD Student Show* – Loughborough, England