

BAERT GALLERY

REUBEN GORDON [b. 1996]

Artist Statement

My current work mainly consists of interior figurative scenes and exterior cityscapes, set where I was born and raised, Manhattan's Lower East Side, and Brooklyn. My depictions, of friends and places I am in close, intimate relationships with, are filled with humor and existential longing. This is particularly poignant for me now because I have recently moved to Los Angeles. I am looking back from my new home to my old.

Abraham Cahan, the Belarussian-born Jewish immigrant writer, said, "We will accomplish in the new world one-hundred times more than we could in the old. But you'll not be able to erase the old home from your heart. The heart will be drawn elsewhere. And in your solitude, images will rise up and stare in your faces".

Hemingway, remarking on Miro's masterpiece, *The Farm*, wrote, "It has in it all that you feel about Spain when you are there and all that you feel when you are away and cannot go there. No one else has been able to paint these two very opposing things."

The deep human tendency to imagine places and people we love but cannot return to feeds the act of painting, where you are trying to expel a nameless energy onto a canvas, in longing. You hope your expressions relate to the universal, though they come from an individual in solitude.

The longing, exteriorizing the unconscious, results in an anxious explosion of beauty that is objective and plastic. I am most interested in color, and formal qualities of painting. Concepts, emotions and meanings follow, through them.

I have a concurrent series of sports paintings. The athlete playing a sport is like the artist making art. Both train exhaustively, then get into the game, or face the canvas, and must execute an instantaneous physical action. Neither can think back to their training and experiences in that instant ; but all of it has seeped into the unconscious, and there is a beautiful, joyous spirituality in that.

The artist is concerned with humanity, including the humanity of loss, sorrow, humiliation. Few experience those emotions as clearly as athletes, who err publicly and usually fail or lose in the end of a season. But athletes also make extraordinary plays, pull off amazing victories. During these fleeting successful moments, they experience a rare pure ecstatic glory. Art, too, fleetingly and gloriously reaches, and permanently records, that ecstasy.

REUBEN GORDON

Born in 1996, New York City, NY
Lives in Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY

EDUCATION

2018
BA, Studio Art, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018
Lunatics-- Recent Paintings by Reuben Gordon, Wönzimer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
You Live Long Enough-- A Senior Thesis Exhibition by Reuben Gordon, Bard Exhibition Center, Red Hook, NY

2015
Reuben Gordon at the Bushwick Open Studios, Grand Street Studio, Brooklyn, NY
The Basement Sounds Rock the Art Gallery, Cincinnati Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020
Works on Paper, Baert Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2019
Color is an Act of Reason, Baert Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Caffeine, The Living Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2018
All Art, Van Der Plas Gallery, New York, NY
Saccharine, Tribeca Storefront, New York, NY
Bard College Senior Thesis Exhibition, UBS, Red Hook, NY
Open Call, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Center, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Heat, Forum Art Space at SUNY Purchase, Purchase, NY

2017
OMI Summer Exhibition Opening, OMI International Arts Center, Ghent, NY
'Summer Sippin', presented by the Juice Box Party, The Living Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2016
Open Studios at Bard College Berlin, The Factory, Berlin, Germany

2015
Dimensions: A Group Art Show, Philadelphia Open Studios: Naudain St., Philadelphia, PA
Brooklyn Wildlife Summer Festival, The Paperbox, Brooklyn, NY

2014
21 and Counting, The Painting Center, New York, NY

2013
SFAI Pre-College Final Exhibition, Diego Rivera Gallery, San Francisco, CA

HONORS

2017

Nominated for Yale Norfolk Fellowship

2016

Jane Fromm Yacenda Scholarship in the Arts: A scholarship given annually to a deserving student or students of painting whose work combines innovation with a love of craft (Bard College)

RESIDENCIES AND ART PROGRAMS

2016

Bard College, Berlin, Germany

2015

Spring Street Studio, New York City, NY

2013

San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), San Francisco, CA

The Art Students League of New York, New York City, NY