Dennis Kardon
Biography

Dennis Kardon (b. 1950, Des Moines, Iowa – lives and works in New York) is a graduate of Yale University, took part in the Whitney Independent Study Program, and was a student of Chuck Close and Al Held. Pervaded with a sense of untouchable intimacy, Kardon's canvases are "generously painterly, voluptuously creepy narrative pictures of familial conflict, sexual angst and infantile yearning", as Ken Johnson wrote in the New York Times in 2004.

For several decades, Dennis Kardon has been experimenting with painting's ability to encompass the spectrum between abstraction and hyperreal representation. With an almost hallucinatory power, Kardon treats the surface of his canvases as a field with various properties of reflection or distortion, resulting in a narrative that seems to have been disrupted by an unexpected event. Kardon's examination of the human figure digs into the psyche contradicting stereotypes and preformed ideas.

The artist's whimsical tone serves to pervade his paintings with a discomforting feelingof familiarity: whatever you recognize is never exactly as you remember it to be. Critical comparisons have been made to David Lynch, for the ability to find the gothic in the every day, and to John Currin (who had a neighboring studio in the mid 90s). Ambiguity informs all the artist's production: by playing with painting's syntax and imaginatively re-contextualizing spontaneous painting from earlier stages, Kardon transforms each brushstroke into a possible signifier for something else. Thus, his paintings become a vehicle to examine how meaning is constructed, and allows viewers as partners in their creation. Kardon challenges painting's potential by creating representational scenes that materialize from loose abstract brushstrokes. Moreover the endless intellectual challenge of Kardon's practice has led him to counterbalance his painting with powerful writing and critical skills allowing him to become a highly respected contributor to several art publications.

Dennis Kardon has widely exhibited in the United States and beyond, and his work is part of public collection such as, among others, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the New Museum, the National Museum of American Art in Washington D.C., the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Solo exhibitions

2024

2024 - Only The Real, Pièce Unique, Paris, F

2021

2021 - Strange Waters, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK

2016

2016 - Dennis Kardon, Fred Valentine Gallery, New York, USA

2015

2015 - iPad Paintings, curated by Elena Sisto, Techonomy, New York, USA

2013

2013 - Seeing Through Surfaces, Garrison Art Center, Garrison NY, USA

2008

2008 - Dennis Kardon, Mitchell Algus Gallery, New York, USA

2004

2004 - Dennis Kardon, Mitchell Algus Gallery, New York, USA

1996

1996 - Dennis Kardon, Richard Anderson Fine Arts, New York, USA

1991

1991 - A Conversation with Rococo Mirrors, A/D, New York, USA

1990

1990 - Studio Space, Simon Watson, New York, USA

1989

1989 - Dennis Kardon, Barbara Toll Fine Arts, New York, USA

1986

1986 - New Paintings, Barbara Toll Fine Arts, New York, USA

1984

1984 - The Science of Beauty, Barbara Toll Fine Arts, New York, USA

1981

1981 - Dennis Kardon, Barbara Toll Fine Arts, New York, USA

Group exhibitions

2022

2022 - Pictus Porrectus, Art & Newport Foundation in conjunction with Newport Preservation Society, Newport, USA
2022 - In Bloom, MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique, Paris, F
2022 - Art Paris, Grand Palais Ephemere, Paris, F

2021

2021 - Ulteriors, curated by Dennis Kardon, MASSIMODECARLO, VSpace,

2020

2020 - Painting is Painting's Favorite Food: Art History as Muse, curated by Alison Gingeras, South Etna Montauk, New York, USA
2020 - London Collective - Dennis Kardon and Matthew Monahan, Vortic Collect, Massimo De Carlo, London, UK

2016

2016 - Within Reach (with Alexi Worth), curated by Matthew Kolodziej, Emily Davis Gallery, Myers School of Art, University of Akron, Akron, USA
2016 - Beautiful Objects, curated by Patrick Neal, Jeffrey Leder Gallery, Long Island City, USA
2016 - Introspective, BravinLee Programs, New York, USA
2016 - Shaky Ground, curated by Dominick Lombardi, Leslye Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2015

2015 - Uncanny/Figure, curated by Lilly Wei, Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City, USA
2015 - Who, Leslye Heller Gallery, New York, USA

2014

2014 - Invitational Exhibition, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, USA

2013

2013 - Thanks (Organized by Adam Parker Smith), Lu Magnus Gallery, New York, USA

2009

2009 - Octet, Pera Museum, Istanbul, TR
2009 - That's All Folks, Stadshallen, Bruges, B

2008

2008 - Twisted into Recognition. Clichés of Jewsand Others, Jüdisches Museum, Berlin, D (Travels to Spertus Institute, Chicago, 2009 Jewish Museum, Vienna, and in 2010 to Jewish Museum, Munich)

2007

2007 - In My Solitude, Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels, B

2005

2005 - Life and Limb, Feigen Contemporary, New York, USA

2002

2002 - Super Natural Playground, curated by Michael Steinberg, Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milano, I. Catalogue

2001

2001 - Self-Made Men, D. C. Moore Gallery, New York, USA

2000

2000 - The Figure: Another Side of Modernism, Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, USA
2000 - Private Worlds, curated by Joan Semel, Art in General, New York, USA
2000 - Revealing and Concealing: Portraits & Identity, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, USA
2000 - The Nude and Narrative, PPOW Gallery, New York, USA

1999

1999 - Foreign Bodies, Foreign Beings, The German Hygiene Museum, Dresden, D
1999 - Skin, The Deste Foundation, Athens, GR
1999 - Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews, The Jewish Museum, New York (travelling to the Muscarelle Museum, Williamsburg, Va., Atlanta Historical Society, Atlanta, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, and University Gallery, Amherst), USA

1996

1996 - Too Jewish? Challenging Traditional Identities, The Jewish Museum, New York (Traveling to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Baltimore), USA
1996 - Being Human: Lucian Freud, Ann Hamilton, Lilian Hsu-Flanders, Dennis Kardon, Sol LeWitt, Ana Mendieta, Laurie Simmons, Kiki Smith, Raab Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
1996 - A Millenium Celebration, The Fabric Workshop, Philadelphia, USA

1995

1995 - Inside Out, Psychological Self-Portraiture, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, USA
1995 - In the Flesh, The Albright Gallery, Reading; The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield,, USA

1994

1994 - 46th Annual American Academy Purchase Exhibition, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, USA
1994 - The Second Parish Art Museum Design Biennial: Mirrors, The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, UK
1994 - …It's How You Play the Game, Exit Art/The First World, New York, USA

1993

1993 - Any Given Day, John Post Lee Gallery, New York, USA

1993 - Building a Collection: The Department of Contemporary Art, Museum of Fine Art, Boston, USA
1993 - American Academy Invitational Exhibition of Painting & Sculpture, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, USA

1992

1992 - Tattoo Collection, Air de Paris & Urbi et Orbi at the Jennifer Flay Gallery, Parigi, F; Galerie Daniel Buchholz, Köln; Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York; CRDC, Nantes, F
1992 - Slow Art-Painting in New York Now, PS 1 Museum, New York, USA

1991

1991 - Kardon, Brokish, Kliavang, Wingate Gallery, New York, USA
1991 - (Dis)member, Traditional Values / Simon Watson, New York, USA

1990

1990 - Portraits, Althea Viafora Gallery, New York, USA
1990 - Spellbound, Marc Richards Gallery, organized by Christian Leigh, Los Angeles, USA
1990 - Body and Soil, Fernando Alcolea Gallery, Barcelona, E
1990 - Fragments, Parts, Wholes; The Body and Culture, White Columns, organized by Saul Ostrow, New York, USA

1989

1989 - Erotophobia, Simon Watson Gallery, New York, USA
1989 - Untitled (Slime), Simon Watson, New York, USA
1989 - Life-Like, Lorence-Monk Gallery, organized by Marvin Heiferman, New York, USA

1987

1987 - Monsters: The Phenomena of Dispassion, Barbara Toll Fine Art, New York, USA

1986

1986 - 1976-1986 10 Years of Collecting Contemporary Art. Selections from the Edward R. Downe, Jr. Collection, Wellesley College Museum, Wellesley, USA
1986 - Public and Private: American Prints Today, The 24th National Print Exhibition, The Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA
1986 - Painting and Sculpture Today: 1986, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, USA

1985

1985 - Nude, Naked, Museum of Modern Art, Print Gallery, New York, USA
1985 - Nude, Naked, Stripped, organized by Dana Friis-Hansen, List Art Center MIT, Cambridge, USA

1983

1983 - Prints from Blocks: Gaugin to Now, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

Bibliography

2016

Cohen, David. "Dennis Kardon at Valentine", *Artcritical*, April 2016.
Turner, Anderson. "Within Reach", *Akron Beacon*, September 2016.

2009

Anker, Suzanne.*Octet*, exhibition catalogue, Pera Museum, Istanbul. Istanbul, Pera Museum, 2009.
De Wilde, Michel.*That's All Folks*, exhibition catalogue, Stadshallen, Bruges. Bruges, 2009.

2008

Fyfe, Joe. "Dennis Kardon at Mitchell Algus", *Art in America*, December 2008.

2004

Johnson, Ken. "Art in Review", *The New York Times*, March 6, 2004.

2002

Greenberg, Jeanne.*Super Natural*, exhibition catalogue, Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milano. Milano, Silvia, 2002.

2000

Gilbert, Barbara.*Revealing & Concealing: Portraits & Identity*, exhibition catalogue, Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, Skirball Cultural Center, 2000.
Wei, Lilly.*The Figure: Another Side of Modernism*, exhibition catalogue, Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, Staten Island. Staten Island, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, 2000.

1999

Gilbert, Andrea.*Skin*, exhibition catalogue, The Deste Foundation, Athens. Athens, The Deste Foundation, 1999.
Hürliman, A..*Foreign Bodies, Foreign Beings*, exhibition catalogue, The German Hygiene Museum, Dresden 1999.

1996

Humphrey, David. "New York Fax", *Art Issues*, summer 1996.
Karmel, Pepe. "Art in Review", *The New York Times*, March 22, 1996.
Kleeblatt, Norman. *Too Jewish? Challenging Traditional Identities*, exhibition catalogue, The Jewish Museum, New York. New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 1996.
Mahoney, Robert. "Dennis Kardon, Richard Anderson", *Time Out New York*, March 13-20, 1996.
Smith, P.C.. "Dennis Kardon at Richard Anderson", *Art in America*, July 1996.
Snyder, Jill.*In the Flash*, exhibition catalogue, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield. Ridgefield, The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, 1996.

1995

Strauss, Mark J..*Inside Out, Psychological Self-Portraiture*, exhibition catalogue, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield. Ridgefield, The Museum, 1995.

1992

A/D at the Peter Joseph Gallery. New York, The Gallery, 1992 Texts by Cunnick, Elizabeth.

1991

"A Conversation with Simon Watson, Dennis Kardon, and Chuck Close", *Balcon #7*, 1991, p. 156.
Decter, Joshua. "Kardon, Brokish, Kliavang", *Arts Magazine*, April 1991.
Mahoney, Robert. "Dennis Kardon", *A/D Arts Magazine*, September 1991.
Westfall, Stephan. "Dennis Kardon at Barbara Toll", *Art in America*, October 1991.

1990

Zaya, Octavio.*Body and Soil*, exhibition catalogue, Fernando Alcolea Gallery, Barcelona. New York, Fernando Alcolea Gallery, 1990.

1989

The 1980's: Prints from the Collection of Joshua P. Smith, exhibition catalogue, The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.. Washington, D.C., The National Gallery of Art, 1989.

1988

Brody, Jacqueline. "New Editions: Dennis Kardon–Critical Mass", *The Print Collector's Newsletter*, n. Vol. XVIII-No. 6, Jan-Feb 1988.

1987

Hart, Claudia. "Monsters: The Phenomena of Dispassion", *Artscribe*, n. 63, 1987.
Maschal, Richard. "Downe Collection Packs a Punch", *The Charlotte Observer*, February 22, 1987.

1986

1976-1986, ten years of collecting contemporary American art: Selections from the Edward R. Downe, Jr. collection, exhibition catalogue, Wellesley College Museum, Wellesley. Wellesley, Wellesley College Museum, 1986.
Silverman, Andrea. "Dennis Kardon", *Artnews*, n. 7, Vol. 85, September 1986.
Walker, Barry.*Public and private : American prints today : 24th National Print Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Brooklyn Museum, New York. New York, Brooklyn Museum, 1986.

1985

Ahrendt, Mary.*Nude, Naked, Stripped*, exhibition catalogue, List Art Center MIT, Cambridge. Cambridge, The Committee, 1985.
Brody, Jacqueline. "New Editions: Dennis Kardon– Charlotte's Gaze", *The Print Collectors Newsletter*, n. Vol. XVI-No. 4, Sept-Oct 1985.

1983

Castleman, Riva.*Prints from Blocks: Gaugin to Now*, exhibition catalogue, Museum of Modern Art, New York. New York, Museum of Modern Art, 1983.
Meyer, Jon. "Works on paper", *Arts*, May 1983.
Walker, Barry.*The American Artist as Printmaker: 23rd National Print Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Brooklyn Museum, New York. New York, Brooklyn Museum, 1983.

1979

Bleckner, Ross. "Transcendent Anti-Fetishism", *Artforum*, March 1979.

Public Collections

United States of America

Brooklyn Museum, New York
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York
Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines
Eskenazi Museum of Art, Bloomington
Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge
Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Museum of Modern Art, New York
New York Public Library, New York
Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Company, New York
Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles
Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.
Speed Art Museum, Louisville
The Jewish Museum, New York
University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, Iowa City
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis