

# Dennis Kardon

## Biografia

Dennis Kardon (1950, Des Moines, Iowa – vive e lavora a New York) si è laureato alla Yale University, ha preso parte al Whitney Independent Study Program ed è stato allievo di Chuck Close e Al Held. Pervase da un senso di intoccabile intimità, le tele di Kardon sono “immagini narrative generosamente pittoriche, voluttuosamente raccapriccianti di conflitti familiari, angoscia sessuale e desiderio infantile”, come scrisse Ken Johnson sul New York Times nel 2004.

Per diversi decenni, Dennis Kardon ha sperimentato la capacità della pittura di comprendere lo spettro tra astrazione e rappresentazione iperreale. Con un potere quasi allucinatorio, Kardon tratta la superficie delle sue tele come un campo con varie proprietà di riflessione o distorsione, dando vita a una narrazione che sembra essere stata sconvolta da un evento inaspettato. L'esame di Kardon della figura umana scava nella psiche contraddicendo stereotipi e idee preformate. Il tono stravagante dell'artista serve a pervadere i suoi dipinti con una sensazione di disagio e di familiarità: tutto ciò che riconosci non è mai esattamente come lo ricordi. Paragoni critici sono stati fatti con David Lynch, per la capacità di trovare il gotico nel quotidiano, e con John Currin (che aveva uno studio vicino a metà degli anni '90).

L'ambiguità informa tutta la produzione dell'artista: giocando con la sintassi della pittura e ricontestualizzando in modo fantasioso la pittura spontanea delle fasi precedenti, Kardon trasforma ogni pennellata in un possibile significante per qualcos'altro. Pertanto, i suoi dipinti diventano un veicolo per esaminare come viene costruito il significato e consentono agli spettatori di collaborare alla loro creazione. Kardon sfida il potenziale della pittura creando scene rappresentative che si materializzano da sciolte pennellate astratte.

Inoltre l'infinita sfida intellettuale della pratica di Kardon lo ha portato a controbilanciare la sua pittura con potenti capacità di scrittura e critiche che gli hanno permesso di diventare un collaboratore molto rispettato di diverse pubblicazioni d'arte. Dennis Kardon ha ampiamente esposto negli Stati Uniti e oltre, e il suo lavoro fa parte di collezioni pubbliche come il Museum of Modern Art di New York, il Metropolitan Museum of Art, il Brooklyn Museum, il New Museum, il National Museum of American Art di Washington D.C., il Walker Art Center di Minneapolis e il Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

### Esposizioni personali

#### 2021

2021 - Strange Waters, MASSIMODECARLO, London, UK

#### 2016

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

#### 2015

2015 - iPad Paintings, a cura di Elena Sisto, Techonomy, New York, USA

#### 2013

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

**2008**

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

**2004**

2004 - Dennis Kardon, Mitchell Albus 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

**Esposizioni collettive****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, a cura di Dennis Kardon, MASSIMODECARLO, VSpace,

**2020**

2020 - Painting is Painting's Favorite Food: Art History as Muse, a cura di 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), a cura di Matthew Kolodziej, Emily Davis Gallery, Myers School of Art, University of Akron, Akron, USA

2016 - Beautiful Objects, a cura di Patrick Neal, Jeffrey Leder Gallery, Long Island City, USA

2016 - Introspective, BravinLee Programs, New York, USA

2016 - Shaky Ground, a cura di Dominick Lombardi, Leslye Heller Gallery, New York, USA

**2015**

2015 - Uncanny/Figure, a cura di 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 Jews and 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, a cura di Michael Steinberg, Marella Arte Contemporanea, Milano, I. Catalogo

**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, a cura di 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 Alpus", *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: Gauguin 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