

Mark Stephenson

Curriculum Vitae



Mark Stephenson

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"I want people to spend time with the art, see it from a distance and up close, interact with it and find the same fascination, passion and love that I slipped into as I created it."

Mark Stephenson is a visual and electronic artist living and working in Ottawa Canada. His series and installations often focus on engaging the viewer to participate and interact with the art. Mark likes to use portraiture as a means to connect intimately with the viewer and convey his concepts. Although an accomplished painter Mark likes to incorporate new materials, electronic and mechanical devices, media and online communities into his works. His intent is to make you interact with his art, he wants to visually fill our eyes, evoke a connection and touch our curiosity.

EDUCATION:

1994: Graphic Design, St. Laurence College

Post 1994: Workshops and classes include: Kristy Gordon, Fernando Freitas from the Academy of Realist Art, Katherine McNenly, NASCAD and the Ottawa School of Art.

WORK HISTORY:

1994-1997: Multimedia Designer at DVS Communications

1997-2000: Associate Creative Director at Applied Imagineering

2000-2007: Creative Director at Axionic

2007-2011: Creative Director and VP at RealDecoy

2011 to present: Independent Designer and Visual Artist

RELATED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Boards: AOE Arts Council - Board of Directors

Figureworks - President. *A national annual juried figurative art competition.*

Folkrum - Board of Advisors. *A community-based artistic hub that fosters learning, development, and creativity by bringing together local musicians, audiences, and community groups.*

Instruction: Helpful articles, workshops and demos for ArtEngine, the Ottawa Library, Ottawa Art Council and AOE Arts Council.

Membership: Member of the AOE Arts Council, the Ottawa Council for the Arts, CARFAC Ontario and Foyer Gallery

SELECT EXHIBITIONS AND APPEARANCES:

JURIED AND CURATED:

- 2017: CSArt M Installation + Solo show (paid fees)
Foyer Gallery (Artist run gallery, membership juried by peers)
Social Portraits at City of Ottawa Trinity Gallery (upcoming in Oct 2017, paid fees)
- 2016: Figureworks (*juried by Tom Campbell, Stephen Frew and Katherine McNenly*)
AOE Selections (*juried*)
Artwork at Ottawa Art Gallery Rental & Sales (*juried*)
EBA (Enriched Bread Artists) Open Studio group show
CSArt Ottawa 2016/17 Season Visual Artist (*curated by Megan Monafu and CSArt board, paid fees*)
- 2015: Patrick Gordon Group Show (*curated by Patrick Gordon*)
Figureworks (*juried by Katherine McNenly, Shahla Bahrami and Joël A. Prévost*)
Chinatown Remixed - Social Portraits (*paid fees*)
EROS, Arbor Gallery (*curated by John Olsthoorn*)
- 2014: AOE Selections - Jury Choice Award for oil portrait 'Pondering' (*juried*)
Figureworks (*juried by Kristy Gordon, Andrew Morrow and Mat Dubé*)
The List installation, Nuit Blanche Ottawa Gatineau (*curated by Megan Smith*)
Nuit Blanche Ottawa Gatineau HipsterMonocle (*curated by Megan Smith, paid fees*)
- 2013: Figureworks (*juried by Brian Smith, Rosemary Breault-Landry and Pamela Cockcroft-Laserre*)
Firefly Installation, Nuit Blanche Ottawa Gatineau (*curated by Megan Smith, paid fees*)
HipsterMonocle, Creative Cities Summit in Ottawa (*curated by ArtEngine, paid fees*)

FUNDRAISERS:

- 2016: OAC Luck
- 2015: OAC Luck, SAW Gallery Sketch, SweetHeARTs - Fundraiser for Carleton University AHGSS
- 2014: SAW Gallery Sketch
- 2013: OAC Luck

LIVE PAINTING AND OTHER APPEARANCES:

- 2016: New Art Festival
- 2015: Firefly, Maker Fair Ottawa
Showcased Artist (Live Painting), AOE Artinis (*paid fees*)
Pop-up gallery and live painting Social Portraits, Art School Fair
Hit and Run, La Petit Mort
Live Painting, Hintonburg Happening (*paid fees*)
- 2014: Live painting, Hintonburg Happening After Party
- 2013: Winner of the 2013 Art Battle Ottawa Championship & participation in nationals at the AGO

GRANTS AND OTHER FUNDING:

- 2016: Crowdfunding campaign (~10K) to help support the Social Portraits series
CSArt Grant for 2016-17 Season (tbt)
- 2014: OAC Emerging Media Arts Grant (10K) for Firefly V2
- 2013: Awesome Ottawa Grant (1K)

PUBLISHED:

- 2016: Illusion Magazine (online) [Fine Art Nude Photography and Painting on ello](#)
[CTV Morning Interview](#) (<http://ottawa.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=830754>)
Variety of articles in Ottawa Citizen, Metro and Apt 613 related to Social Portraits
[Artist Spotlight on Faison-ici](#) (<http://faisons-ici.ca/tagged/Mark-B-Stephenson>)
- 2015: Strokes of Genius 8: Expressive Texture Book (juried competition, book published by Artists Network)
Ottawa Arts Review Magazine - Drawing 'a dash of red' on front cover

You can find out more about Mark Stephenson at:

- Website: <http://www.markbstephenson.com>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarkStephensonArtist>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/markbstephenson/>

Mark Stephenson is one of Ottawa's best life drawing artists. His outstanding pen and ink work always captures a striking likeness of both the features and personality of the life model, and demonstrates his superb handling of this difficult medium. Over the past 5 years both his paintings and drawings have been consistently accepted for the annual Figureworks Award Shows, which are rigorously juried by various established art professionals.

As a volunteer Mark is a gem within the Figureworks organization, as he is heavily involved in its online presence, from logo and website design to management of the electronic submissions for the annual award shows.

Hilde Lambrechts, Ceramic Artist and President of Figureworks