

PEYTON WRIGHT

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Peter Opheim

(American/German, b. 1961)

Peter Opheim is an American artist, born in 1961, in Landstuhl, Germany. He lives and works in New York City, New York and in San Cristobal, New Mexico.

In 2011, Peter Opheim abandoned abstraction and began sculpting small maquettes out of colored clay, which he's continued to transform into monumental oil paintings that uncannily capture the sculptural quality of his small-scale models. Most of his initial pieces depict whimsical creatures that one might find on a Claymation series for children. Like pre-school Play-Doh figurines, these early figures aggregate body parts that resemble rolled balls and tubes of clay, stacked and attached in ways that summon a childhood sentimentality and association with familiar cuddle toys.

For his new exhibition at Zevitas Marcus titled "Fables of the Eleven Rooms and Six Houses," Opheim presents a new series of 11 large-scale paintings along with six three-dimensional works. Again, his paintings embody a childlike essence. What sets these works apart, however, is that they shatter any idea of whimsy or nostalgia with images that manifest as grotesque and mutated. Evolving beyond the saccharine sweetness that characterized his previous paintings, Opheim's show instead embodies complex notions that speculate on the inner workings of the pre-adolescent's mind, navigating adult territory with only a limited knowledgebase grounded in fantasy.

Timeline

1961

Born in Landstuhl, Germany

1981

Cheingmai University, Cheingmai, Thailand

1983

St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, B.A.

The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant New York, NY

Friends of Contemporary Art Recognition Award Museum of Fine Art New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM

Lives and works in New York City, New York and San Cristobal, New Mexico

Exhibitions:

2010 Little, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2010 Group Exhibition, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee

2010 B.Y.O.A., X-initiative, New York, New York

2009 Saranwrap Up My Little Life, Michel Allen Projects, New York, New York

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2009 Big Pie Modern Architecture, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
2009 Outside In, Wassaic Project, Maxon Mills Art Center, Wassaic, New York
2009 21st Anniversary Group Exhibition, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2009 Five Years, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
2009 Now Open, Gallery Jones West Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
2009 Red Dot Art Fair, Butters Gallery, Miami, Florida
2008 In Focus, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington
2008 Selections: Modern and Contemporary Abstractions, The Harwood Museum of Art, Taos, New Mexico
2008 Group Exhibition, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 2008
Holiday Group Exhibition, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2008 Red Dot Art Fair, Butters Gallery, Miami, Florida
2008 Red Dot Art Fair, Butters Gallery, New York City, New York
2008 Group Exhibition, The Culture Center, New York City, New York
2008 New Paintings and Works on Paper, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2007 Gail Harvey Gallery, Santa Monica, California
2007 19, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2007 Summer Group Exhibition, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2007 Group Exhibition, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
2007 Paintings and Works on Paper, Mallet Contemporary, Bend, Oregon
2007 Holiday Group Exhibition, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2007 Red Dot Art Fair, Butters Gallery, Miami, Florida
2007 Group Exhibition, Fenix Gallery, Taos, New Mexico
2006 Holiday Group Exhibition, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2006 Microscope/Telephone, Art Lobby, Taos, New Mexico
2006 Sportscasters and Weathermen, Cervini Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
2006 Medium Matters, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2006 New Paintings, Tae Ho Kang, Peter Opheim, Sammy Peters, Gail Harvey Gallery, Santa Monica, California
2006 Group Exhibition, Fenix, Gallery, Taos, New Mexico
2006 Group Exhibition, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2005 Butters Brand Abstraction, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2005 Works on Paper Invitational, Wendy Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
2005 Summer Group Exhibition, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
2005 17, Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2005 Peter Opheim, Katharine White, Wesook Kim, Gallery Bienvenu, New Orleans, Louisiana
2005 Holiday Group Exhibition, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2005 Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2005 Pleasure, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2005 Upper Middle Lower, Gallery Jones, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
2004 Wendy Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
2004 Thomas Ingerick Gallery, Aspen Colorado
2003 Occassional, Peyton Wright Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2003 Eventually, Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee

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2003 Thomas Ingerick Gallery, Aspen, Colorado
2002 Wendy Haas Gallery, Scottsdale, Arizona
2002 Butters Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2002 Gail Harvey Gallery, Santa Monica, California
2001 Thomas Ingerick Gallery, Aspen, Colorado
2001 Lisa Kurts Gallery, Memphis, Tennessee
2001 Peyton Wright Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2000 Peyton Wright Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2000 Gail Harvey Gallery, Santa Monica, California
1998 Abstract Painting Exhibition, Gail Harvey Gallery Los Angeles, CA
1998 Peyton Wright Gallery Santa Fe, NM
1997 Peyton Wright Gallery Santa Fe, NM
1997 Gail Harvey Gallery Los Angeles, CA
1997 Mary Mackey Gallery Denver, CO
1996 Peyton Wright Gallery Santa Fe, NM
1996 March Group Exhibition, Peyton Wright Gallery Santa Fe, NM
1996 Southwest '96, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of New Mexico Santa Fe, NM
1996 Winter Group Exhibition, Peyton Wright Gallery Santa Fe, NM
1994 TAA Contemporary Exhibition 1994, Stables Art Center Taos, NM
1985 Neo-Non-Realists, Louis Meisel Gallery New York, NY

Literature

2012

McQuaid, Cate, Boston-area galleries show innocence and experience, The Boston Globe, April 4, 2012