

Research Grant – Spring 2014

Faculty member: Ezra Johnson

Unit: School of Art and Art History

Project/Proposal Title: Expanding on "Der, Die and Das"

Abstract:

I am requesting funds to aid the production of a solo show in New York opening this Fall, Sept 25th at Freight and Volume Gallery on 24th street in Chelsea. This show will expand upon the solo project I am currently working on for NADA, during the Frieze New York Art Fair entitled “Der, Die, Das”, opening in May, 2014.

Proposal:

“Der, Die, Das” combines a constellation of three giant (human-body-sized) contorted household sponges, one pink one blue and one yellow. The surrounding walls display-identical sized, abstract paintings of the same (sponge) pallet alongside a video projection of the sponges in stop-frame animation-action: sucking up and squeezing out paint.

In September for my solo show I will carry this work further. I would like to further inflate the importance of innocuous household items. Building upon painting, sculpture and animation’s unique abilities to use something of little significance and pump it up through color, repetition, composition, surface and scale until a visual equivalent of the weight of narrative opera is reached. For this work I propose cross-mashing the giant squeezed sponges mentioned above with waves and powerful storms. I intend to add to this work a video dimension including projections of waves, which have been animated with colorful shards of paper. This work will be excessively optical yet minimal in both theme and presentation. I hope for the work to be funny, but also deal with human’s preoccupation with grand gestures, death, sex and the day to day.