

MATTEAWAN GALLERY

Rational Curves

Joy Curtis
Ryan DaWalt
Matt Phillips

Curated by Robert Otto Epstein

March 12 - April 3, 2016

Opening reception Saturday, March 12, 6-9 pm

Matteawan Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of painting and sculpture by Joy Curtis, Ryan DaWalt, and Matt Phillips. The show is curated by Robert Otto Epstein, an artist whose work was featured in a solo exhibition at Matteawan Gallery in July 2014.

There exists a space that defines and sees across itself and back as it shapes a conscious act and a prescient reaction, where doing bends into becoming as it brings together and propels itself forth as an emerging of oneself of his or her making, encountering the laws of nature and the freedom to wonder.

It appears as a sidelong arch that paints itself under the sun. It looks like an object that embodies the pull of history and gravity, allowing the viewer to embrace the uncertainty of standing still. And it sounds like the essence of life dancing into place on natural ground.

Curtis, DaWalt and Phillips set the stage for the making of their work by way of intuitive systems but gracefully allow nature to appear and contribute in their creations. Within the margins of making, there lies a wonderfully organic space where history, rationale and color operate with the guiding hand of the artist as he or she explores the boundaries between conscious thought and the limitless knowledge of nature's course.

— Robert Otto Epstein, 2016

The three artists in *Rational Curves* approach abstraction from different places, each relying on a distinctive process to shape his or her work. Matt Phillips' paintings are influenced by modernist abstraction, folk art, and African textiles, and the unusual surface texture in his work comes from hand mixing paint that is a combination of pigment and silica. Ryan DaWalt uses hand-colored steel granules and magnets to compose paintings on linen mounted on Masonite. He has developed two specific types of imagery with this technique: a series of parallel lines resembling corduroy, and an organic pattern like frost on a window. In Joy Curtis' wall-mounted sculptures, strips of cotton duck fabric resemble bodies or rib cages. Freestanding works combine Hydrocal plaster, paper, fiberglass, acrylic, and mirrors that seem to reference architecture, while continuing to relate to the body.

Joy Curtis has shown extensively in New York and the northeast. Her work has been featured in solo exhibitions at Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery, NYC and in recent group exhibitions at TSA New York, Lorimoto, Leslie Heller, and Schema Projects in NYC; The Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT; The Wassaic Project, Wassaic, NY; Bronx River Art Center, New York, NY; Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY. In 2011 Curtis was awarded a Socrates

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Sculpture Park Emerging Artist Fellowship and in 2009 received a grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Her work has appeared in *Hyperallergic*, *Artcritical*, *Saatchi Online Magazine*, and *Artinfo International*. She received a BA from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA and an MFA from Ohio University, Athens, OH. Curtis lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Ryan DaWalt has exhibited nationally, with shows at Centotto, Brooklyn, NY; Lorimoto Gallery, Queens, NY; Studio 26, Wall Works Gallery, Blackston Gallery, and Mercy College, NY, NY; and Drawing Rooms, Jersey City, NJ. DaWalt's work was included in the Ohio Art League Annual Fall Juried Exhibition, curated by David Reed, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH, and *Arrangement*, Ohio University Art Gallery, Athens, OH. He is a founding member of Majestic Galleries, Nelsonville, OH. DaWalt received a BFA, from Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN and an MFA from Ohio University, Athens, OH. He currently lives in Brooklyn.

Matt Phillips is a painter living and working in Brooklyn. Recent solo exhibitions include *Comfort Inn*, at Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects and *Staring at the Sun with a Penny in My Pocket* at the University of Maine Museum of Art, Bangor, ME. He will have a solo show at Studio d'Arte Raffaelli in Trento, Italy in 2016. Recent group exhibitions include *Only Lovers at Le Coeur*, Paris, France and *I Can't Wait to Get Off Work* at Bannerette, Brooklyn, NY. Phillips is a founding member of the nonprofit TSA (Tiger Strikes Asteroid) New York gallery in Bushwick, Brooklyn. In 2015, the NYC Department of Education and the Public Art for Public Schools Program commissioned Phillips to install a large-scale mosaic at PS106. Phillips is in residence at the MacDowell Colony until early March 2016.

For additional information please contact Karlyn Benson at info@matteawan.com.