

BENJAMIN STONE

b. 1968, Chicago, IL
Live and works in Berwyn, Illinois

EDUCATION

- 1998 University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, Master of Fine Arts, Studio Art
1991 Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *SPORTS!*, (northern) Western Exhibitions, Skokie, IL
A Show of Hands: Recent Work by Ben Stone, NIU Art Museum, DeKalb, IL
- 2016 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2014 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2013 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2010 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2007 Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
- 2002 Suitable Gallery, Chicago, IL
Project Space, Ten in One Gallery, New York, NY
- 1999 Ten in One Gallery, Chicago, IL

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Biennial NIU Faculty Art Show*, NIU Art Museum, DeKalb, IL
- 2017 *Can't Lose: reflections on sportsmanship and contemporary culture*, Metropolitan Capital, Chicago, IL
Toy Box, Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery, Springfield, IL
- 2016 *Brian Kokosha / Trauma Sauna*, ASHES / ASHES, Los Angeles, CA
Chicago and Vicinity, ^[SEP]Shane Campbell Gallery,^[SEP] Chicago, IL
Tiny Show, Backspace Gallery, DeKalb, IL
- 2015 *Ryan Travis Christian Presents 21st Century LOL's*, Left Field, San Luis Obispo, CA.
- 2014 *We do what we like and like what we do*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
A Study in Midwest Appropriation, Curated by Michelle Grabner, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2013 *Snail Salon*, curated by Adrienne Rubenstein. Regina Rex. Queens, NY
- 2012 *Painted*. The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
- 2011 *Police and Thieves* Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2009 *Sports*, Synchronicity Space, Los Angeles, CA
Artists Run Chicago, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
- 2008 *Associate Degree in Science*, Open Lot Studios, St. Louis, MO; Pampers Banana, Kansas City, MO; Finch Gallery, Chicago, IL

- Three Hundred Six*, Hoffman/Lachance Gallery, St. Louis, MO
- 2006 *Coma 2*, C.O.M.A., Chicago, IL
- 2005 *Five Solo Shows*, Western Exhibitions, Chicago, IL
Interaction, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, IL
Divine Feminine Power/F Degree, Fahrenheit, Kansas City, MO
City Selections, Chicago Tourism Center, Chicago, IL
Ben Stone/Gyan Shrosbree, The Bower, San Antonio, TX
Four Color Pen Show, Locust Projects, Miami, FL; Van Harrison, Chicago, IL
- 2004 *Ben Stone/Patrick Merrill*, Bad Dog Gallery, De Kalb, IL
Pac/Edge Performance Festival, Athenaeum Theater, Chicago, IL
Drunk vs Stoned, Gavin Brown, New York, NY
- 2003 *Really Real*, Gallery 312, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *Realm of The Lair* (Co-Curator), Joymore, Chicago, IL
Building Anxiety, Ten in One Gallery, New York, NY
- The ArtCouncil Awards Show*, Gallery 312, Chicago, IL
Meet Me in St. Louie, Crowe T. Brooks, St. Louis, MO
- 2001 *Off the Wall*, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL
- 2000 *Hardware From the Heartland*, 16 Beaver Group, New York, NY
Hot Sauce, Soil Gallery, Seattle, WA; TBA Gallery, Chicago, IL; Diverse Works Artspace, Houston, TX
Kraft, Midway Artists Gallery, Bloomington, IL
- 1999 *Suitable II*, Suitable Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 1998 *Harry Carey Show*, Diverse Works Artspace, Houston, TX
New Artists in Chicago, 1998, Terra Museum of American Art, Chicago, IL
Word Perfect, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL
Yeah, Crown Center Gallery at Loyola University, Chicago, IL

HONORS

- 2002 Chicago Grants to Individual Artist Recipient, The ArtCouncil, San Francisco, CA
 Illinois Arts Council Finalist Award Recipient, Illinois Arts Council, Chicago, IL
- 1998 Visual Arts Scholarship Winner, Union League Civic and Arts Foundation, Chicago, IL
 Graduate Purchase Prize Award, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2023 Newcity Art, Vasia Rigou, "Twisting the Familiar: A Review of Ben Stone's Unique Take on Sports Imagery at (northern) Western Exhibitions." October 17, 2023.
NIU Arts Blog, "A Show of Hands: Recent Work by Ben Stone" on Display at NIU Art Museum." January 24, 2023.
- 2016 Bad at Sports, Bassett, Dana; Borowy-Reeder, Elysia; Mackenzie, Duncan. Audio interview. July 20, 2016
- 2014 New City, Toale, Erin. "Review: *We do what we like and like what we do*", July 3, 2014.
NewCity, Miller, Chris. "Review: Ben Stone/Western Exhibitions". January 18, 2014
art ltd., Yood, James. "critic's picks". January 2014
- 2013 Blackbook, Indrisek, Scott and Lerma, Jose. "The Best Art Of 2013: A Definitive Survey". December 24, 2013
Hyperallergic, Eler, Alicia. "Making Art in the Midwest". December 20, 2013

- 2011 [Chicago Now](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "MDW Fair preview". April 21, 2011
[Art in America](#). Snodgrass, Susan. "Ben Stone" (review). February 2011
[ArtSlant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "What are we afraid of? March 27, 2011"
- 2010 [New City](#). Velez, Pedro. "The Sport of Violence: We're living in the Ben Stone age", September 8
[Chicago Tribune](#). Viera, Lauren. "Berwyn: A Better 'burb for entertainment". October 7, 2010
[Time Out Chicago](#). Weinberg, Lauren. "Ben Stone" (review). Issue 291: Sept 23-29
[Artslant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "Who Will Curate a Major Sports Exhibition". September 27
[Time Out Chicago](#). Weinberg, Lauren. "Open Citywide (Ben Stone)". Issue 289: Sept. 9-15
[Artslant](#). Ritchie, Abraham. "Welcome Back". September 13
[Beautiful Decay](#). Christian, Ryan. "Ben Stone". September 28, 2010
[Chicago Art Review](#). Ruiz, Steve & Wenzel, Erik. "Opening Weekend Reviews / Impressions". Sept. 17
[Artnet](#). Velez, Pedro. "Summer of Plop", August 20, 2010
[Time Out Chicago](#). Heidemann, Jason A., "The Art of Laughter". July 1-7, 2010
[Hyperallergic](#). Jordan, Jay. "A First-Hand Report from Art Chicago". May 12, 2010
[NBC 5 Chicago](#). Alt, Kate. Chicagoan Stakes Claim to First Robot Wedding". Saturday, May 22, 2010
- 2008 [ARTFORUM](#). Yood, James. Review. January 2008
- 2005 [Time Out Chicago](#). Ferrara, Annette. "INterACTION" June 9-16, 2005
[Hyde Park Herald](#). Devitt, Caitlin. "An Art Walk around Hyde Park" June 1, 2005
- 2004 [KWVL-TV](#). KWVL-7 News at Six, Waterloo, IA, September 20, 2004
[WBBM-TV](#). Channel 2 News at Ten, Chicago, September 22, 2004
[WLS-TV](#). Channel 7 News at 5 o'clock, Chicago, September 22, 2004
[WGN-TV](#). WGN Morning News, Chicago, October 13, 2004
[Red Eye](#). Potash, Larry. "Wedding Robot Gets the Job Done" October 2004
[The Midweek](#). Brockett, Hank. "When Art, Robots, and Wedding Cake Collide" November 2004
- 2003 [Bridge](#). Walz, Marie. "Visual Art Portfolio: Realm of the Lair Revisited" Summer/Fall
[Bridge online](#). Speth, Scott. "Realm of The Lair" January 2003
- 2002 [Artnet.com](#). Velez, Pedro. "Summer Thrills" July 2002
- 2000 [New City](#). Bulka, Michael. "Hot Sauce at TBA" June 2000
[Ten By Ten](#). Neuhoff, Tony. "Hot Sauce" Summer 2000
[Artnet.com](#). Erickson, Karl. "Chicago Five" August 2000
[WLS-TV](#). Channel 7 News at 10 o'clock, Chicago, July 17, 2000
- 1999 [Dialogue](#). Brunetti, John. "Ben Stone" February 1999, pp. 17-18
[Cakewalk](#). Bryan, Edgar. "Perfect Sleeper" Winter 1999, p. 61
[Chicago Reader](#). Camper, Fred. "Image Problems" January 1999, pp. 30-31
[New City](#). Wiens, Ann. "Ben Stone" February 1999, p. 39
[Art in America](#). Snodgrass, Susan. "Report From Chicago, Staying Alive" April 1999, p. 85 (Image)
- 1998 [New Art Examiner](#). Bulka, Michael. "Chicago's Last Five Minutes of Art History" October 1998, pp. 16-19
[New Art Examiner](#). Grabner, Michelle. "1998 New Artists in Chicago at Terra Museum of American Art"
[WLS-TV](#). Channel 7 News at 4 o'clock, Chicago, January 13, 1998
[WGN-TV](#). WGN Morning News, Chicago, April 24, 1998
[WMAQ-TV](#). Channel 5 10 o'clock News, Chicago, September 28, 1998
[WLS-TV](#). Channel 7 News at 10 o'clock, Chicago, September 28, 1998
[WGN-TV](#). WGN Nine o'clock News. Chicago, September 29, 1998
[WFLD-TV](#). Fox Thing in the Morning. Chicago, September 29, 1998

COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL
 Ryan Kortman Collection, Chicago, IL
 AbbVie Corporate Collection, North Chicago, IL

Shane Campbell Collection, Oak Park, IL

BENJAMIN STONE

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BEN STONE's sculptures elevate ubiquitous icons and ever-present visual ephemera through a compulsive attention to detail and fastidious production quality. He has built his career off of a sensitive study of omnipresent imagery found in advertising and signage, public speech, and encounters in his daily life. By enlarging the scale of his source material and remaking it into a three-dimensional form, he transforms a derivative of a derivative into a de-coded, un-conditioned original. Stone explores the contemporary psyche as he reckons with violence and corruption in his midst and in society at large; his frustration with politics, both local and national; bad or just plain weird public iconography; and his continued exploration of his own self-worth as an artist. Stone's sincere pursuit of profundity within sloppy, over-simplified imagery and lazy ideas transcends irony, groping towards the tragicomic. In *art ltd* in 2014, James Yood writes that Stone is “so sensitively attuned to the pathetic earnestness of lowbrow culture as to always make it seem dignified and important.”

Ben Stone's work has been written about in *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Artnet*, *ArtSlant*, *Beautiful Decay*, *New City* and *The New Art Examiner*. In 2011 in *Art in America*, critic Susan Sondgrass wrote that "Stone assumes the role of interlocutor, a champion of an art earnest in all its intentions regardless of its humble origins" and in *New City* in 2010, writer Pedro Vélez called Stone's life-size realist sculpture depicting two drunken baseball fans attacking a rival team's first base coach “a fitting homage to our nation's desperate attempt to cope with the unknown variants brought on by the economic debacle”. His work has been discussed on the *Bad at Sports* podcast and featured on newscast on several Chicago stations. He's been included in shows at the Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago; The Green Gallery, Milwaukee; Regina Rex, NYC; Locust Projects, Miami; Ten in One, NYC; among several others. Stone received his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and his MFA from the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is represented by Western Exhibitions and lives in Berwyn and maintains a studio in Chicago.